

THE TIMES



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28 1983

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THE TIMES

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Never apologize, never explain - and mind the stairs: the Neurotic Partygoer's Guide
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Sorting out the EEC money muddle to balance Britain's books... the books
John Plumb on Lord Clarendon, A. S. Byatt on Charles Darwin and Philip Howard's choice of the year's best paperbacks
Final score
David Miller's sports review of the year

Global cuts holidays by £500,000

Global Holidays has announced a reduction in its brochure prices for 1984 of more than £500,000, with savings of £50 on many of last year's holiday costs.

It is the latest move in the price-cutting war which has already seen the three largest tour operators reduce their prices.

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Ship intercepted

An Argentine cargo vessel infringed the 150-mile Falkland Islands protection zone, on Christmas Eve, but left after being seen by RAF fighters, the Ministry of Defence said.

American plants face closure

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US steel industry faced a further round of heavy job losses yesterday as directors of the giant US Steel Corporation voted to open the closure of its plants.

The \$1bn retrenchment would be the biggest since 1979, when America's largest steelmaker closed 13 plants and laid off a huge workforce employed in smaller towns which have still not recovered from the closures.

The decision to consider more large scale closures came after the United Steelworkers' Union refused the company's demands for big new wage concessions. US Steel warned union leaders that it would have no choice but to close plants in

Rajiv fitted for the Gandhi mantleFrom Michael Hamlyn
Calcutta

Mrs Indira Gandhi swept into the Bengali capital yesterday to preside over the first plenary session of her party since 1972. The 8,000 or so delegates, mostly clad in traditional white dhoti and Nehru jacket topped with a Gandhi cap, appear, however, to be attending a service of consecration for her son Rajiv.

Rajiv Gandhi was a simple airline pilot with a nice Italian wife until the death of his brother Sanjay. He too donned the white homespun uniform of a Congress politician and became his mother's closest adviser.

Since posts in the party have ceased to be elective, she nominated him as General Secretary and leader of the youth wing of the party. Now, apparently, the time has come to anoint him officially as the apparent heir.

Rajiv's presence is dominant after elections to party office, and debates in the conference held to influence party policy and win reelection for the delegates from their constituents. Without elections the delegates have constituency of only one or perhaps two persons to please - Mrs Gandhi and son. Disagreement with her policies is therefore unlikely.

Instead of the conference being an opportunity for the hierarchs to hear of the feelings of the grass roots workers, it is likely to be much more of a preselection rally than a traditional party conference.

The general election must come within the next 12 months and the series of party meetings which began with the Congress Committee meeting in Bombay a few months ago is being used to prepare the activists for the struggle to come.

As you get closer to the conference hall the posters of Rajiv become more and more dense. Just outside the driveway is a triumphal gateway, draped in orange green and white, the colours of both India and the Congress Party, bearing the legend in foot high letters "Hope is Youth; Youth is Future" on the left, and "Long Live Rajiv Gandhi" on the right.

This is the first Congress conference since independence that has been held in a state not controlled by Congress. The Communist Party (Marxist) which dominates the left front coalition running West Bengal has, however, done its best to make sure that everything goes smoothly.

The plenary session is also the first of a series of events commemorating the centenary of the founding of the Indian National Congress. Its inaugural meeting actually took place in Bombay on December 28, 1885. But this represented an amalgamation of other bodies and other meetings, the first of which was the national conference held in Calcutta 100 years ago today.

Continued on back page, col 1

Scots steel threat renewed after US deal collapses

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Proposals for a unique multi-million pound "steel swap" deal between Britain and the United States have been abandoned, posing a renewed threat to the survival of the Ravenscraig steelworks in Scotland.

The project, to sell Ravenscraig steel slabs to United States Steel of Pennsylvania, was finally laid to rest last night in simultaneous announcements from London and New York.

Mr Robert Haslam, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, said that the corporation still wanted to phase out one of its three strip mills - the other two are at Port Talbot and Llanwern in South Wales. "We are not saying that Ravenscraig is eventually the works that will close, but its long-term future is in doubt."

Ravenscraig employs about 4,000 workers of whom about half work in the strip mill. Their future would be resolved in talks with the Government soon.

Mr Haslam added that the joint project had been a brave concept and if it had been pulled off "it would have ensured more jobs being retained in British Steel".

British Steel, which is losing about £2.5m a week, and has ruled out reaching break-even in 1983-84, hoped the joint

venture would help it back to profitability.

The plan was to smelt Australian iron ore at Ravenscraig into steel slabs for United States Steel's loss-making Fairless works in Pennsylvania. British Steel was to have invested a huge sum, initially \$600m (£400m), into United States Steel to finance modernization of outdated American works and in return would have secured markets for the Ravenscraig output.

But last night's statement said that terms mutually beneficial to both companies could not be concluded. It was agreed to end discussions so that other options available to both could be pursued. One option would be for British Steel to supply slab to US Steel on a normal commercial contract basis.

Mr Haslam said the discussions had represented an attempt by the two corporations to find solutions to serious problems which could not be ignored. "It is important that the implications of the outcome should not be misunderstood by anyone. In the case of British Steel, the problem remains of wide strip capacity, surplus to foreseeable market requirement. Faced with the pressing need to end its present losses,

Continued on page 2, col 3

BSC will have to examine all other options."

The joint venture proposal was the brainchild of the previous BSC chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor, and Mr David Roderick, chairman of US steel.

Mr Haslam, who took over at British Steel in September, said last night that the gap between the two companies had widened: "US steel have steadily increased their asking price, while we wanted to pull back from our original position."

The venture has been opposed on both sides of the Atlantic by trade union and political leaders and churchmen, but Mr Haslam said:

"Opponents should not regard it as a victory or draw solace from it because the basic underlying problems still remain. It removes some uncertainty and we can now proceed to bring our corporation into line with our view of the market."

Mr Haslam refused to be drawn on which of the strip mills would be affected. The corporation is committed to a £170m modernization at Port Talbot, which appears to have the most secure future.

On the question of redundancies, Mr Haslam said the corporation had gone through a



Face to face: The Pope talking in jail yesterday to Mehmet Ali Agca, the man who is serving a life sentence for trying to kill him two years ago.

Reagan accepts blame for 241 Beirut bomb deaths

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan, speaking in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the US Armed Forces, said yesterday that he took full blame for the deaths of 241 American servicemen in the terrorist bombing of the American Marines headquarters in Beirut on October 23.

Saying that American troops were not properly equipped to deal with the "new phenomenon of state-supported terrorism", he made clear that the officers commanding the Marine contingent at the time would not be court-martialed because of inadequate security arrangements at the compound.

"I do not believe... that the local commanders on the ground - men who have already suffered quite enough - should be punished for not fully comprehending the nature of today's terrorist threat," the President said.

"If there is to be blame it

properly rests here in this office and with this President. And I accept responsibility for the bad as well as the good."

The President delayed his departure for a week's holiday in California by half an hour to make a special statement in advance of publication of the Pentagon's report on the Beirut bombing.

The report, said to be extremely critical of security arrangements at the Marine headquarters, was to have been released at the end of last week, but was delayed at the last moment because of divisions within the Administration over how to present it. It is now expected to be released later this week, with some deletions.

Mr Reagan said he had read the Pentagon report, prepared by a commission headed by retired Admiral Robert Long, and "wholeheartedly agreed" with its conclusion that Amer-

ican forces were by tradition and training inadequately equipped to deal with terrorists.

The main thrust of his statement was the need for the US and other Western democracies to develop a new approach to the problem.

For terrorists to be curbed "civilized countries must begin a new effort to work together, to share intelligence, to improve our training and security of our forces, to deny a haven or legal protection for terrorist groups. And most important of all, to hold increasingly accountable those countries which sponsor terrorism and terrorist activity around the world".

● BEIRUT: Two British soldiers of the multinational force suffered slight injuries yesterday when an explosive device went off as their Ferret scout car drove by. (Our Correspondent writes.)

Later, talking to women prisoners at the jail, he elaborated his theme: Providence had intervened in an extraordinary and also wonderful way in that today after two years, I'm able to meet my assailant and repeat the pardon that I expressed immediately toward him and was later to declare publicly when I was still in the hospital!'

The 20-minute encounter caused outrage in Turkey where Agca has been condemned to death for murdering a newspaper editor.

Kremlin power vacuum worries President

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

In an end-of-year assessment of US-Soviet relations, President Reagan has expressed concern about the problems of dealing with the Kremlin under the ailing President Andropov and a new tendency by military leaders to make warlike statements without obtaining authority from the political leadership.

However, in an interview with Time magazine, he said there was less danger of a war between the superpowers than when he took office.

The interview was noteworthy for its conciliatory tone and the moderate view of the Soviet Union expressed by Mr Reagan. Asked if he would repeat a remark he had previously made about Russia being the "focus of evil", he replied: "No, I would not say things like that again, even after some of the things that have been done recently".

Andropov analysis, page 6

He explained that he had used tough language to "show them how we felt, what our views were and why he thought it necessary to build up our military defense...."

"What more of an international superpower they could be if it was not just in the military that they were super, but if they could join the family of nations as trading partners, working together, as all of us are, for the improvement of their own people's standard of living."

The President did not refer directly to the illness which has kept President Andropov out of the public eye for four months, but admitted that the US had a "lack of information about where he stands. It isn't like dealing with Brezhnev after years in the Kremlin. You knew where he was and felt you knew how to reach him."

10.30PM WEDNESDAY

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Leader page 11
Letters: On the poverty pool, from Dr K V Roberts, and the President of the Retail Book, Stationery and Allied Trades Employees' Association; Scott Lithgow, from Professor J Pickett; sugar, from the Right Rev K Arnold.
Leading articles: M Andropov and the Russian economy; the Pope meets his assailant; Select Committees.

Features, page 8-10
How killer satellites could help preserve the peace; Hongkong: the Taiwan factor; life sentence anomalies; disabled deprived.

Wednesday Page: haul of the wild; Spectrum: Sweden's new mood of puritanism.

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Miss Violet Carson; Professor Johanna van Lohuizen de Leeuw

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away for illegal parking in the area of sales.

Scotland Yard said that its appeal for people to travel by public transport had been partially effective and there had been fewer cars than normal at the start of the sales.

After the Harrods bombing on December 17, which killed six, and the small explosion opposite Selfridges on Christmas night had been intended to disrupt, they had clearly failed.

The police said that they had located dozens of suspicious packages and there had been one controlled explosion in Baker Street of a parcel. It had not been a bomb.

Parking restrictions had remained in force, unlike normal bank holidays, and about 50 cars had been towed away.

Crowds milled along Oxford Street, with many eating and drinking al fresco in the unseasonably mild weather.

Liberians thought that there were fewer people this year, but they were more determined.

Casual shoppers might have stayed at home, but "those with their eye on something" were out in force (Saks guide, back page).

● Police Constable John Gordon, who lost a leg in the Harrods explosion, was still in "critical but stable" condition at Westminster Hospital yesterday. Police Sergeant Christopher Stanger and Police Sergeant Andrew Melham, who were also injured, were both said to be making good progress.

Scargill leads move to replace unions' political finance body

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Political warfare has broken out within Trade Unions for Labour Victory, the umbrella body formed to channel cash to the Labour Party to fight general and local elections.

The National Union of Mineworkers has invited "interested persons and organizations" to quit the TULV and join a rival concern dedicated to the left-wing 1983 election manifesto and Labour Party conference decisions.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, said last night: "I stand by the union's position on TULV". This is contained in a three-page confidential circular to other militant unions warning them that the fund-raising body "is bringing financial and political pressure to bear on the Labour Party to amend policy".

His hardline initiative has been condemned by union moderates as "clearly intended to be highly divisive", but Mr Mostyn (Moss) Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, has also asked the miners: "Do we smell a witch-hunt here?"

Mr David Bassett, chairman of the TULV and general secretary of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trade Union, has asked for a meeting with the mineworkers' national executive to discuss the breakaway move, which could cause the five-year-old organization to founder.

So far, the miners have not replied, although the NUM circular makes specific charges despite denials that Trade Unions for Labour Victory is a policy-making body.

The Scargill letter claims that TULV leaders met in the House of Commons to ensure that there was no contested election for the leader-deputy leader of the Labour Party in election year.

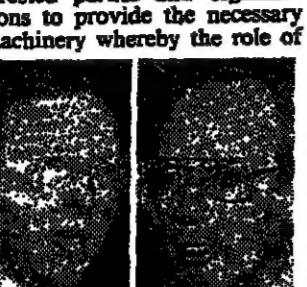
Prisoners protest over parole

Two prisoners are staging a hunger strike at Long Lartin maximum security prison near Evesham, Hereford and Worcester. They climbed up on Monday with the help of other prisoners, and are huddled in a crude shelter on top of a water tower.

The men, Mark Leech, aged 26, who has served a year of a five-year sentence for theft and wounding with intent, and Stephen Robson, aged 25, jailed for nine years last June for robbery and possessing a firearm, are protesting at the Home Secretary's decision not to give parole to prisoners serving long sentences for violence.

• Two prisoners who escaped from Stafford jail late on Monday, were recaptured in Madeley, Shropshire, yesterday. Terry Kirk, aged 38, and Keith Lane, aged 19, had used sheets knotted together to scale the perimeter wall.

Kirk has served six months of a 57-month prison sentence for incest, burglary, and possessing a firearm. Lane had served three months of a two-year sentence for burglary.



Antagonists: Mr Scargill (left) and Mr Mostyn Evans, who suspects a witch-hunt by the miners.

Tories urge review of obscenity law

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, is coming under fresh pressure from Conservative MPs to review the operation of the Obscene Publications Act.

MPs are complaining that the present obscenity law is resulting in insufficient convictions and is easy to evade.

It is pointed out that a situation has arisen in which, although the Government has given councils powers to close sex shops under local planning and is easy to evade.

MPs plan to raise the issue at private meetings with Mr Brittan.

Churches' plea on oil rig

The Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland appealed yesterday to British Shipbuilders and Britoil to avert the loss of more than 4,000 jobs at Scott Lithgow.

The Lower Clyde side yard faces closure because of Britoil's cancellation of an £86m oil rig order.

The churches, in a joint statement, said: "For the sake of many thousands of people in the west of Scotland, we

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earnestly request you to discuss urgently terms for the resumption of building exploration rig contract 2002 at Scott Lithgow's".

Britoil cancelled the order last week. The rig should have been delivered next spring, but it is estimated to be up to 500 days behind schedule. British Shipbuilders said afterwards that it could not afford penalty payments.

The BBC said yesterday: "The Extremists" is a programme which has been completed for some time but we were unable to show it because of the conspiracy trial in Cardiff and other events.

"Although it is a play based on real events which happened in Wales, they are events which occurred a decade and a half ago. Unfortunately, terrorist activities appear to be still with us but there is no connection between events portrayed in the film and the recent tragedy in London. Indeed the film does serve as a warning of the consequences of such activities."

Early risers: Snow drops (*Galanthus Caucasicus*) flowering in the rock garden at Kew Gardens, west London, yesterday (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Anger over TV film on bombing

From Our Correspondent

An MEP is protesting to the BBC about a programme about John Jenkins, a former army sergeant who was jailed for 16 years for his part in the bombing campaign before the investiture of the Prince of Wales in 1969.

The programme, *The Extremists*, is to be shown on BBC Wales tomorrow night, but Miss Beata Brooks, Conservative MP for North Wales, said yesterday: "I think it is appalling that just after the Harrods carnage a film like this should be shown.

"This man Jenkins decodes the Royal Family, there is talk of a threat to blow them up, and claims that an assassination squad existed. It is quite vicious stuff."

If the BBC thought it right to apologize for playing *The Mountains of Mourne* the day after the Harrods bombing, it should show equal sensitivity and take off this film.

The dramatized documentary, which is an hour and a half long, was made with Jenkins's cooperation after his release from prison. He is now serving two years at Dartmoor for hindering the arrest of a

man who was still with him.

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TUC wants action on tax evaders

By Our Labour Editor

The Government is accused today of being more zealous in prosecuting poor social security scroungers than rich tax dodgers.

In a report to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the TUC demands tougher action against all forms of tax evasion, including publication of the names of defaulters operating in the "black economy" thought to be worth £6,500m a year.

Union leaders involved in tax administration say in a 4,000-word document that many people on low incomes are having to pay excessive tax because of evasion by the better-off.

"No other EEC country taxes its low-income citizens so heavily. There has also been a dramatic increase in the number of people depending on means-tested benefits, with 6.5 million people now claiming supplementary benefit."

But tax evasion and avoidance have continued to grow, the TUC argues, and "there is a popular view that the black economy represents a dynamic and innovative sector of the economy as a whole."

Quoting the Keith committee report on tax reform, the TUC says that that is being "penny-wise, pound foolish" because these investigators generally yield returns of four to five times the cost of their salaries.

Forecast, back page

SAS increases checks on potential trouble spots

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Forces of the Army's Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) and the Royal Marines' Special Boat Squadron have increased their activities of surveying possible trouble areas around the world.

It is one of their long-standing tasks to be acquainted with areas where they could become involved militarily. That means being aware of the location of possible parachute or aircraft landing sites, checking which beaches are suitable for amphibious landings, and knowing the location of politically sensitive buildings.

It is believed that the level of activity has been increased because of fears that many Commonwealth islands have so little defensive capability that they could be seized.

The kind of event which caused anxiety is thought to have been evidence of plans by mercenary groups to organize coups d'état in the Seychelles.

In 1981, there were reports that the SAS had been active in support of the Government of Sir Dawda Jawara, President of Gambia, after an attempted coup.

More than 1,200 police and troops were drafted into Derrida wood, outside Ballinamore in Co Leitrim, yesterday in a final search for the kidnappers of Mr Don Tidey, aged 49, the chairman executive.

While police chiefs are conceding that the IRA kidnap squad has eluded the biggest security operation mounted in Ireland, officers still believe that there might be vital forensic science evidence to be found.

Fingerprint experts were examining beer cans and tins of food found in the underground dugout where Mr Tidey was

held captive for 23 days. He was freed in a gunbattle 12 days ago in which a soldier and a police trainee died.

A police spokesman said last night: "We cannot afford to leave any stone unturned. Forensic science evidence could be vital in identifying the gang."

Meanwhile, Dr Garret Fitzgerald, Prime Minister of the republic, is preparing for a Cabinet meeting next week at which overall security will be reviewed.

In the past two months, Dominic McGlinchey, the INLA terrorist leader, has evaded capture three times.

Frigates cost £80m to refit

By Our Defence Correspondent

It is now costing £80m to modernise a Royal Navy frigate. This is only £20m less than the price at which the navy is hoping to build the first of its entirely new class of Type 23 frigates.

Facts given by Mr John Lee, Parliamentary Under Secretary of Defence Procurement, in a written answer in the Commons, show that the cost of a mid-life refit of a Leander class frigate has risen from about £30m for ships which completed their refit in 1980 to about £80m each for HMS Hermione and HMS Scylla which began their modernisation programmes in that year, and complete them this month and in mid-1985 respectively.

This huge cost escalation adds point to the decision announced in June 1981 by Sir John Nott, then Defence Secretary, to end the practice of mid-life modernisation. At that time he put the cost at £70m per ship.

Graham sermon

The Queen has invited Dr Billy Graham, the US evangelist, to preach at Sandringham parish church on January 15, during the Royal Family's new year holiday on the estate. At least 10,000 people are expected to hear his sermon relayed by loudspeakers.

Overseas selling prices

Austria Sch 250; Belgium Bfr 150; Canada \$10; Cyprus £50; Denmark Kr 100; France Frs 7,000; Germany DM 600;

Ireland £100; Italy £100; Japan Yen 10,000; Luxembourg G 1,250; Netherlands G 1,250; New Zealand £100; Norway Kr 100; Portugal Esc 120; Spain Pes 150;

Sweden Kr 100; Switzerland Frs 100; Turkey £100; UK £100; US \$100; Yugoslavia D 100.

Labour may seek safeguard for Reuters

Labour may seek safeguard for Reuters

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

The Labour Party is to press for an examination by Parliament of the decision by directors of Reuters, the international news agency and financial information service, to float the company on the stock market next year.

One proposal being discussed within the party is that Reuters should be turned into a statutory corporation like the BBC to safeguard it against the risk of falling into undesirable foreign hands.

The decision by Reuters on December 14 to seek a listing on the Stock Exchange came after lengthy arguments among the board members and opposition from Labour MPs, led by Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister.

The company is thought to have a market value of more than £1,000m, and a flotation would bring big gains to Fleet Street newspaper groups, provincial newspapers, and newsmen in New Zealand and Australia.

Under the terms of the Reuters Trust agreement, the trustees are responsible for ensuring that it did not pass into the hands of any single interest or group, and that its integrity and freedom from bias are preserved.

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, when questioned in the Commons last month, said that he had no responsibility to intervene.

Mr Bryan Gould, a Labour frontbench spokesman on trade and industry, said yesterday: "Now that the flotation may take place in the early months of 1984, it is important that Parliament should look at the issue urgently."

He said that the trust which had been formed to safeguard Reuters came about mainly as a result of parliamentary pressure. "Now we are told that the trust can be broken."

"This was regarded as a matter of extreme urgency in 1981. It is just as important now. That is why we may have to consider statutory protection for Reuters providing a framework similar to that provided for the BBC."

Mr Gould also called for a Commons debate on the concentration of ownership in the national and provincial press. "This concentration has shown that the various Acts to prevent monopolies and create conditions of fair trading are totally useless", he said.

RAF saves sheep from flood

An RAF helicopter rescued two estate workers and 18 sheep stranded by a flash flood at Loch Maree in Wester Ross yesterday.

Mr Archie MacLellan, an estate manager, and his son-in-law, Mr David Price, were trying to reach the sheep in a small boat, but their engine failed. The Lossiemouth helicopter picked up the two men, then took them to the animals, which were led into a net slung under the helicopter and rescued in two flights.

Flooding blocked three main roads yesterday with the Highlands the worst affected by rain and high winds.

On the A82 Inverness to Fort William road, two landslides blocked the route at Letterfinlay and Part of the road surface was swept away. Flooding and subsidence also blocked the Lochcarron road and the Kyle road and serious floods were reported at the Loch Ness village of Fort Augustus.

But in North Wales, the weather was so mild that people sat in the sunshine on the sea front at Colwyn Bay.

Forecast, back page

More than 1,200 search for Tidey kidnappers

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troops were drafted into Derrida wood, outside Ballinamore in Co Leitrim, yesterday in a final search for the kidnappers of Mr Don Tidey, aged 49, the chairman executive.

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Uno voted

By Clifford Webb, UNO general secretary

As the UN general assembly meets in New York, the UNO delegation from 13 countries, headed by Uno, has voted to support the resolution separating the PLO from the UN.

Uno's Maestro came in 13 votes to 12. The highest number of votes was the 13 from the UNO group.

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Global takes more than £500,000 off 1984 holiday prices

By Robin Young

At the outset of the peak booking season for summer holidays, Global Holidays announced yesterday that it was reducing its brochure prices for next year by a total of more than £500,000. It has reprinted its brochure, with lower prices for holidays at 83 hotels in Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Greece.

The biggest saving offered is more than £100 a person for two weeks at a hotel in Majorca, but many holidays will be about £50 cheaper than last year's prices.

That is the latest move in a price-cutting war that began at the end of November when Thomson Holidays, the market leader, announced cuts of up to £56, an average of 10 per cent, on 750,000 of its one million foreign summer holidays for sale.

Inatasun, the second largest company, delayed launching its brochure until December, and then announced an average of 9 per cent reductions on 500,000 holidays. Horizon, the third largest operator, followed suit.

Global has not previously revised its published brochure, but this year it restricted the initial print order in expectation of having to respond to price cuts announced by larger competitors.

Mr Roger Corkhill, managing

director of Global, had accused Thomson's of provoking a price war in the battle for holiday bookings. Yesterday, he said that the strength of the pound against Mediterranean currencies had helped to reduce prices, but that most of the difference would have to come out of profit margins. Global, which is the country's tenth biggest tour operator, hope to sell 230,000 holidays this summer.

As with previously announced price revisions, holidaymakers who have already made their bookings will also benefit from the price reductions.

The travel industry is now fully committed to selling more than eight million foreign holidays this year, well up on previous totals.

Mr Richard Gabber, managing director of Pickfords Travel, which sells more Global Holidays than any other travel agent, said yesterday that overall bookings for foreign holidays next summer are up by a fifth on the same stage last year.

The late launch of the Inatasun brochure caused a dip in sales in November, but in the four weeks before Christmas sales were almost half as many again as in the equivalent period last year.

"We expect our own bookings to be a quarter up on last year."

MP fears slide to random breath tests

By a Staff Reporter

A Conservative MP complained yesterday that the police had been "hounding" motorists during the Christmas holiday with unjustified breath tests.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, said that he would ask the Government for the number of breath tests conducted by all police forces and for an assurance that they were not quietly moving towards random tests.

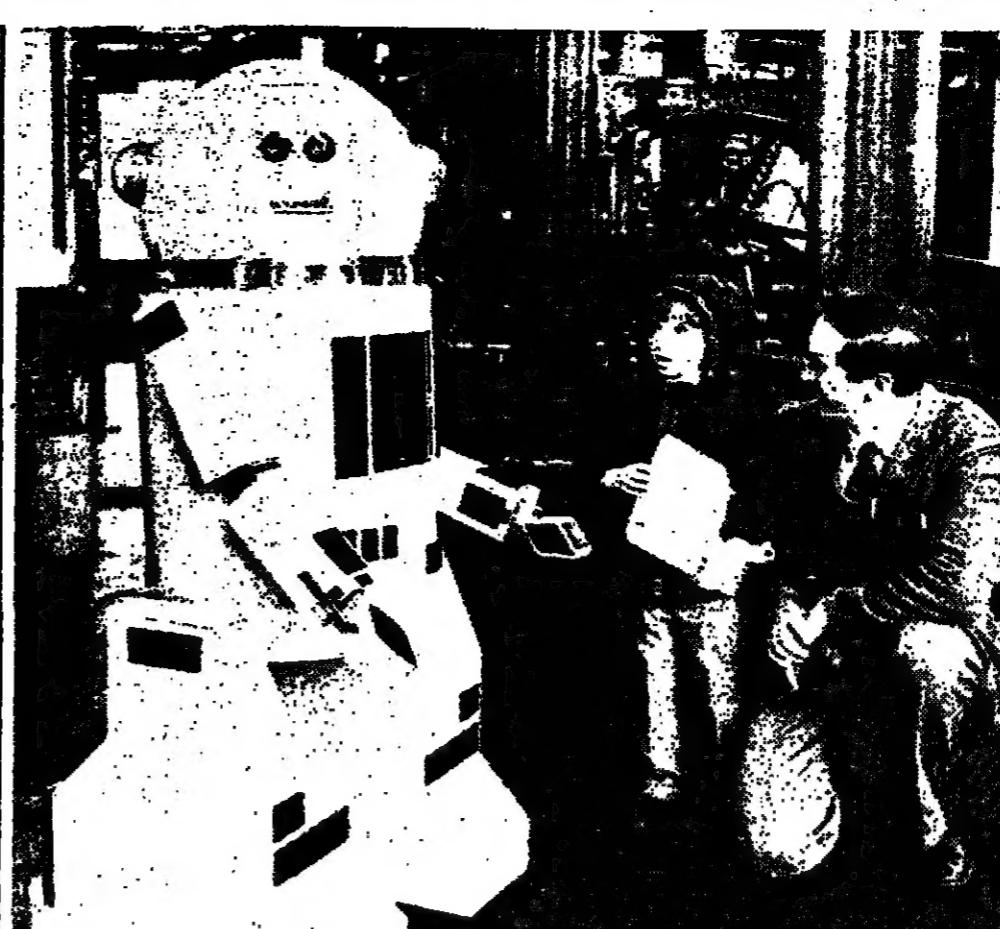
Parliament had rejected random tests, but some forces seem to use prefixes unconnected with suspicion of drunken driving to stop motorists and test them. "I have a horrid suspicion that the police are enforcing their own law instead of Parliament's law", Mr Beaumont-Dark said.

"I am not in favour of people drinking and driving, but I think we have been in a state this Christmas when most motorists have felt like hiding behind a hedge when a police car has come along."

Two people died and 16 were seriously injured in road accidents in Nottinghamshire during the Christmas holiday compared with four and 26 this time last year. Last year 1,700 breath tests were conducted in the county and 54 proved positive. This year there were 2,500 of which 46 were positive.

• The number of drivers who gave positive breath tests in Strathclyde region over the four days of the Christmas holidays almost doubled on last year's figures. A total of 88 drivers, of 130 tested, were found to be driving over the legal limit between December 23 and 26 compared with 49 positive last year.

Lothian and Borders police recorded 11 positive breath tests between December 24 and 26, compared with 28 positive tests last year. Tayside police recorded 11 positive tests compared with 20.



Walkie talkie: Samuel Woodward and his father meeting Denby, the walking, talking robot at the British Engineerium in Hove, East Sussex, yesterday. Denby was part of the welcoming party at the museum's "in steam" exhibition, which runs all this week. (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Waldorf detective back in uniform

By John Witherow
One of the detectives who shot and wounded Steven Waldorf in mistake for the fugitive gunman David Martin is being transferred to uniformed duty.

Det Constable Peter Finch, aged 38, who was cleared at the Central Criminal Court of attempted murder, is to be transferred next month after spending almost a year on full pay.

It is unusual for a policeman to be transferred from detective to uniformed work.

The decision was said to have been taken after senior police officers became concerned at the pressure Constable Finch came under as a result of the trial and an internal Scotland Yard inquiry. The pay for a uniformed police constable is the same as for a detective and the police were keen to emphasize that Constable Finch was not being demoted.

No decision has been taken about the future of Det Constable John Jardine, aged 38, who was also charged and cleared after the shooting.

Constable Finch married with three children, of Croxley Green, Hertfordshire, joined the police as a cadet when he was 16 and had been a detective for eight years.

At the time of the shooting last January he was attached to Scotland Yard's C11 squad. He shot Mr Waldorf, whose car was stuck in traffic in west London, believing he was the escaped man. David Martin and was reaching for a gun. The prosecution also alleged that Constable Finch had "pistol-whipped" Mr Waldorf as he lay wounded in the car.

Constable Finch was cleared of attempted murder on the direction of the judge, Mr Justice Croom-Johnson, and the jury later found him not guilty of wounding Mr Waldorf with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Middle classes pawning videos

By Craig Seton

The Christmas shopping boom is over, the January sales are about to begin, and Mr Philip Murphy, a pawnbroker, awaits the customers who make his business worth while: the middle class people who have succumbed to the easy money of the credit card.

Mr Murphy's Bristol shop is his first, but he plans to open more in Oxford, Exeter, Plymouth and other cities. In the three weeks since he opened, he has pledged about £13,000 against goods brought to his Bristol shop. He expects his business to be worth £200,000 in a full year and is aiming for a

£1m annual turnover when he opens his other shops.

He said that the very rich and very poor had always been good customers of the pawn broker, but never the thrifty and conservative and middle classes.

Now the credit card had changed all that. Products such as video recorders and home computers have encouraged them to overstretch themselves and when other sources of credit were exhausted they started to pawn their possessions.

MP predicts ban on hare-coursing

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

A Unionist MP predicted yesterday that this weekend's hare-coursing meeting at Crebilly, co Antrim, would be the last such event in Northern Ireland.

Mr Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionist deputy leader and MP for Belfast, East, made his forecast when he took his place with a hundred other demonstrators against hare-coursing yesterday. There were more than a thousand coursing supporters at the meeting.

The chances of the sport's being banned in Northern Ireland next year hinges on the respect with which the views of the Northern Ireland Assembly are regarded in London.

Some months ago the Assembly called unanimously for a ban, but it has no legislative powers and the Northern Ireland Office let the decision pass without any reaction.

The Assembly is due to debate a draft Order in Council incorporating changes in Ulster's wildlife conservation

Thatcher is 'Woman of the Year'

By a Staff Reporter

The Prime Minister has won the BBC "Woman of the Year" award for the second successive year.

She gained double the votes given to Mrs Joan Ruddock, chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, who came second. But the BBC declined to give any detailed figures for the award, which will be broadcast on the Today programme on Radio 4 this morning.

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, won the "Man of the Year" poll which was broadcast on the programme yesterday. He beat Mr Eddie Shah, who has continued to publish his Messenger group of newspapers in the face of mass picketing.

Mother Teresa took third place in the "Woman of the Year" vote, with Princess Anne fourth, and the Princess of Wales fifth. Mrs Victoria Giliick, the campaigner against contraceptive pills being prescribed for girls under 16; Miss Helen John, a founder of the Greenham Common peace camp; Jane Torville, the ice skater; Jo Durie, the tennis player; and Commissioner Catherine Bramwell-Booth, of the Salvation Army, completed the top 10.

Lord Tonypandy, the former Speaker of the Commons was third in the men's vote, with Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, forth and Mr Lech Walesa, the Polish union leader, fifth.

The rest of the top 10 were: Mr Richard Noble, the world land speed record holder; Alex Higgins, the snooker player; Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence; Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the Greater London Council leader; and The Rev Richard Harries, Radio 4's *Prayer for the Day* contributor.

Votes were also cast for the pop singer Boy George and Mr Roy Tappin, the man who carried his severed arm half a mile after a hay baling accident.

The Citroën BX which was recently voted "Top Car 1984" by the British Guild of Motoring Writers and was hotly tipped for the European award because of its advanced technology, came sixth.

The last wholly British car to win the prestigious Car of the Year award was the Rover 3500 in 1977.

The big surprise was the poor showing of the Mercedes 190, the German quality car group's first venture into the small to

The first £70 a year of interest from a National Savings Ordinary Account is free of all UK Income Tax and Investment Income Surcharge. For example, if you deposit £1,167 before the end of December 1983 and keep it in for the whole of 1984, you will receive the full tax-free benefit of £70. Husbands and wives are each entitled to this amount of tax exemption.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS-ORDINARY ACCOUNT

Uno voted numero one

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Fiat's new generation supermini, the Uno, has been voted Car of the Year 1984 by motoring journalists from 16 European countries. However, it was a close thing with only a few votes separating it from another supermini the Peugeot 205.

Austin Rover's Maestro came seventh of 15 cars considered. The highest placed Japanese car was the Mazda 626 in fifth place.

The big surprise was the poor showing of the Mercedes 190, the German quality car group's first venture into the small to

medium sized saloon. It was fourth scoring 116 points compared with Uno's 346.

The Italian entry was awarded top marks by jurors from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Britain, Italy, and Norway.

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The computer revolution

New age dawning in polys

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The microcomputer age is dawning in higher education and it is happening, appropriately enough, in the polytechnics rather than the universities.

In the vanguard of this particular revolution is the Polytechnic of the South Bank in London which now has about 200 micros and four mainframe computers to which are linked 200 to 300 terminals. All five faculties have computer laboratories.

The polytechnic, whose director, Mr John Beishon, has taken a strong interest in promoting the new technology, wants to introduce computers to all its students, whatever their subject, so that they have "hands on" experience of micros and understand their potential. Lecturers can call on the computer services department for help with equipment and the programs needed for it.

"We are trying to respond to industry and to student demand", Mrs Pat Crocker, head of the computer services department, said. "We are finding that students now have micros

students for recipe costing and stock control. Each faculty has standardized on a system which fits its needs.

Mrs Crocker says that there is great incentive to get students to use micros across the curriculum since the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAAs), which approves polytechnic courses, put out a policy document earlier this year saying that it wanted new technology incorporated into all courses.

The engineers use the new technology more than any other faculty from the first year onwards - for example, to design circuit boards or test equipment. Mechanical engineers had been testing the effect of wind on items of equipment and readings had to be taken every second or so. This could be done much more accurately on the micro than manually.

Students of town planning use the technology to cost highway design, social scientists for survey analysis, business studies students for financial modelling and bakery



Armed Forces vying for privilege of sending Briton on space shuttle

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Ministers are likely to decide within the next few months to send an astronaut up in the American space shuttle, who would be the first Briton to enter space.

There is intense rivalry among the Armed Services for the privilege but it is possible that a civilian would be chosen.

The Prime Minister, denied on December 13 in the Commons that there were any plans to send a British astronaut, but thinking within the Government and particularly at the Ministry of Defence, seems to point in that direction.

The possibility of sending an astronaut arises because of the decision, announced on December 20, to use the American shuttle in preference to the European Ariane rocket for launching two military communications satellites, Skynet IV and B, in late 1985 and 1986.

Allay fears on ministry, church told

The Church of Scotland was urged today to make a "fresh and clear statement" of its procedures for selecting candidates for the ministry.

The call, in a leading article in the *Church of Scotland magazine Life and Work*, comes after the recent disclosures that a convicted killer and a former bank manager convicted of embezzlement have been accepted as candidates.

The magazine says that in these two "exceptional" cases the reasons why the men were accepted were given, but many prospective candidates who were rejected said that they were not given a reason.



Honeymoon couple: Steve Cram, the world 1,500 metres champion, and his wife the former Miss Karen Waters, who were married 11 days ago, flew to the United States on their honeymoon yesterday.

The couple will spend about ten days in Tampa, Florida,

Vaccination campaigns

The 'trivial' disease that kills 900,000 a year

In the United States, measles has been almost completely wiped out. In Britain this year, there has been an epidemic involving more than 100,000 children. In the United States, vaccination against measles is compulsory. In this country, fewer than six in 10 children receive the vaccine.

Senior officials at the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) are concerned at the comparatively low uptake, and suspect that public apathy is largely responsible. Measles is seen as a trivial infection, with the cure being not much better than the disease, a fever and fleeting rash often follows inoculation.

Yet measles causes an average of 20 deaths a year in Britain. In a typical epidemic, 10,000 children in England alone would suffer complications, including deafness in 2,500 cases and partial deafness in 5,000 others.

The number of children vaccinated against measles in England last year was 368,512, only 20,000 more than in 1974. In 1978, the figure was as low as 302,075. Worldwide, measles

vaccination. The vaccine is usually combined with those for whooping cough and diphtheria, and administered in the same injection. However, a version excluding whooping cough is also available, explaining why tetanus and diphtheria share an 84 per cent uptake, while whooping cough remains at just 53 per cent.

But people aged over 65, who are too old to be immunized in the first wave of vaccinations, remain at risk from tetanus. Between five and 10 tetanus deaths are recorded in England every year, almost all involving people of that age group.

Only four cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were reported last year. Two of those were vaccine-associated — one a child, the other a mother. In the third, the infection was acquired abroad; in the fourth, it was diagnosed in an infant boy who had a febrile illness.

Polio has been virtually eliminated; so too has diphtheria. There were four cases in England in 1982, including that of a girl aged three who died in hospital. She had not been immunized. In the three previous years, there were only seven cases. The vaccination rate last year was 84 per cent.

Tetanus is another infection almost completely defeated by vaccination. The vaccine is usually combined with those for whooping cough and diphtheria, and administered in the same injection. However, a version excluding whooping cough is also available, explaining why tetanus and diphtheria share an 84 per cent uptake, while whooping cough remains at just 53 per cent.

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The usual timetable for immunizations is Diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio from age three months; again at five to six months; and again at nine to 11 months. Measles: from 12 to 24 months. Boosters for diphtheria, tetanus and polio: at about five years of age. Rubella, or German measles: girls aged 10 to 14. Tuberculosis: girls and boys aged about 13 years. Tetanus and polio: when leaving school, aged between 15 and 19. Concluded

Sugar beet crop sets factory records

The sugar beet harvest is expected to produce 1 million tonnes of sugar.

Meanwhile, the Royal Navy, Army and the Royal Air Force are believed to have prepared lists of candidates backed with arguments on why the person should be selected from its ranks.

Scientists at Surrey University are racing to build their second experimental spacecraft in time for launch by NASA on March 1 (the Press Association reports).

They hope to assemble the £350,000 UOSAT-2 for testing next month and delivery in February.

The spacecraft, to be launched from the western test range in California, will carry scientific and engineering experiments for use by experts and radio amateurs, and experiments for schools and colleges.

Letters, page 11

Equality case PC faces inquiry

Police Constable Trevor Attfield, of Hampton police garage in West London, is to face an investigation for allegedly giving evidence in police time on behalf of a woman colleague who successfully brought a sex discrimination case against the Metropolitan Police.

PC Attfield says he cleared the time off with superiors before appearing at a tribunal on behalf of WPC Wendy de Launay.

Comedian's foot crushed

Jim Davidson, the comedian, cancelled shows at the Apollo Theatre, Coventry, last night after dropping a paving slab on his foot on Christmas Day.

His press agent, Miss Pat Lake-Smith, said Davidson almost lost a toe in the accident. A decision will be made today about whether he will appear in the rest of the shows.

Mr Yushiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, yesterday defended his selection of six members of the Tanaka faction in his new Cabinet.

At a nationally televised press conference, Mr Nakasone denied that Mr Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, had ever meddled in the political affairs of his previous government.

He said reports of such activity in the press had been misleading to voters in the election campaign.

The Tanaka issue appears to have been responsible for the sharply decreased vote for the ruling Liberal Democracy Party. Mr Tanaka is appealing against his conviction and four-year jail sentence in the Lockheed bribery scandal.

Explaining his selection of so many Tanaka followers in his 20-man Cabinet — by far the strongest representation — Mr Nakasone said: "It doesn't make sense to deprive qualified people (of posts) just because



Bleak holiday: In Paris yesterday (left), where a woman was killed and three other people injured when a gas explosion wrecked a three-storey building; and in New York, where 10 people were hurt in a hotel fire

Nakasone defends choice of Tanaka backers

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

they belong to Tanaka's group."

Reflecting his reading of public opinion, however, Mr Nakasone eased Tanaka men out of previous held sensitive posts such as Secretary-General of the party, Chief Cabinet Secretary and Justice Minister.

For the first time since the LDP came to power in 1955 the

Cabinet also includes an opposition party member, the leader of the National Liberal Club.

whose alliance with the LDP gave Mr Nakasone enough votes to control the critical budget committee, though still well below the LDP's absolute majority of 286 seats held before the election.

Rare public appearance by Mao's daughter

Peking (Reuter) — Mao Tse-tung's disgraced successor as Communist Party leader, Mr Hu Guoliang, has made a rare public appearance together with Mao's daughter by his jailed wife, Jiang Qing, the People's Daily reported.

The party newspaper said the two paid their respects in Mao's remains in the central Peking mausoleum on Monday as part of ceremonies marking the nineteenth anniversary of his birth.

According to the Hongkong magazine, *Zhengming*, Mi Huai Recently tried to commit suicide.

He was forced to resign in June, 1981, after his policies were attacked as too leftist. He was succeeded by Mr Hu Yaobang whose views are more in line with those of Mr Deng Xiaoping, a sworn enemy of Maoist Dogmatism.

Mr Deng and his associates have stripped Mr Hu of most of his power.

The People's Daily named Mao's daughter, Li Na as among family members who paid homage to his remains in their crystal sarcophagus. It did not mention that she is the only child of Jiang Qing who was given a suspended death sentence in 1981 for conspiring to usurp state power as leader of the Gang of Four.

Li Na, aged about 40, wielded enormous power at the height of the Cultural Revolution in 1967 when she was chief editor of the *Liberation Army Daily*.

The position was of particular importance because the army newspaper had at that time replaced the *People's Daily* as the mouthpiece of the Central Committee.



Local polls begin Ershad's return to democracy

Dhaka (Reuter) — Voting began yesterday to rural council in Bangladesh, the first such elections in seven years.

General Hossain Mohammad Ershad the military ruler, said the elections would lay the foundations for a return to democracy.

Voting will continue until January 10, followed by municipal elections in urban areas on February 11 and sub-district council elections on March 24.

Opponents of General Ershad

are against plans to hold a presidential election on May 24 and parliamentary polls later on November 25. They say that a presidential election held beforehand would help General Ershad to install himself permanently as President.

General Ershad seized power in 1982, and named himself President this month after anti-government violence.

Five of 12 Soviet diplomats expelled from Bangladesh left the country on Monday official sources said yesterday.

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Five of

Israel resolves to stamp out stone-throwing in West Bank

From Christopher Walker, Bethlehem

The Israeli Government is considering new measures to deter Palestinian stone-throwers, including the demolition of houses and other buildings near main roads used by Jewish vehicles, and deportation for those found guilty of inciting the attacks.

Both options are available to the military authorities under draconian security regulations originally drafted by the British in 1945 and still in force in the occupied West Bank.

The probability of their rapid introduction was disclosed yesterday by Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, during a visit to two of the largest West Bank refugee camps, Balata near Nablus and Dheisheh outside Bethlehem.

While soldiers and security men with sub-machine guns kept the hostile camp residents at a safe distance, Mr Arens conferred with senior officers about the new measures, after the recent increase in attacks on Jewish settlers. At no time did he make any effort to enter the warren of alleys and narrow streets in the camp.

Dheisheh, a sprawling eyesore, which houses about 10,000 refugees, is on the main road linking the holy cities of Jerusalem and Hebron and has been the scene of repeated attacks on Jews travelling to and from the large settlement of Kiryat Arba. The Authorities have responded with curfews and by blocking roads in the camp.

Standing alongside used cartridges of Israeli CS gas left from a recent riot, Mr Arens was asked what was being required.

The proposals are likely to be criticized by the US State Department which wants to improve the quality of life of the 800,000 Palestinians in the West Bank.

Camp residents, whose walls are covered in painted-over Palestinian slogans, expressed anxiety about the proposed measures. Many fear that the Israeli plan to move the entire camp under a scheme for resettling the Palestinians being considered by the Cabinet. But Mr Arens denied his unexpected trip had anything to do with it.

His hard-line approach was in stark contrast to remarks made by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, earlier this month when he played down the importance of stone-throwing and told settlers that no switch in security policy was required.

A statement issued from Athens on behalf of the 10 member states of the EEC said they remained deeply concerned at continuation of the occupation and by the violation of the independence of Afghanistan.

It called on the Soviet Union

urgently to withdraw its troops, and said the countries were ready to support any constructive initiative aimed at finding a lasting and principled solution to the problem.

On behalf of Britain alone, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, issued a strong but similar statement which referred to the "brutal and relentless war" waged by the Soviet Union, and called on the Russians "to honour their international obligations under the UN Charter, and to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan".

The spirit of the Afghan people remained unbroken.

He said that since the invasion at Christmas, 1979, "countless villages have been destroyed together with their crops and irrigation systems. Tens of thousands of Afghans have been killed or injured in indiscriminate and violent attacks. Literally millions have been driven abroad as refugees."

"In Kabul the Karzai regime, totally dependent on Soviet power for its survival, pursues a vicious policy of political repression, imprisonment and torture."

More than 100,000 Soviet troops had failed to suppress the resistance to the occupation. Despite their appalling suffering the Afghan people remained determined to defend their way of life and to regain their independence.

leader vowed that the rebels would fight until they drove the Russians out (Reuters reports).

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar of the fundamentalist Hezb-I-Islami Party, and vice-president of the seven-party alliance based in Pakistan, rejected any political settlement with the Soviet Union and accused Moscow of trying to deceive the world with its proposal for a negotiated settlement.

The Afghan offer, in a Radio Kabul broadcast, included a demand for international guarantees that all resistance would stop.

Police accused

Lima, Peru (AP) - Two high-ranking prison officials and seven police officers have been ordered to stand trial for negligent homicide in the death of a Belfast-born nun Sister Joan Sawyer, aged 51, killed by police bullets while held hostage during an attempted prison break. Eight convicts also died.

Kidnap foiled

Rome (AP) - Five people suspected of planning to abduct a Rome countess on Christmas Day were arrested after police discovered a 9ft deep underground "cave" where they intended to hold her.

Pilot rescued

Copenhagen (AP) - Simon Willmott, aged 32, of Somerset, Somerton, spent 13 minutes in icy water near Copenhagen airport after he ditched a twin-engine aircraft in the sea. He was rescued by helicopter.

Arm sewn on

Cape Town (AP) - A Dutch seaman was in satisfactory condition after doctors reattached his severed right arm and his partially severed right leg on Christmas Eve. He was injured in an accident on board his ship.

Sabena strike

Brussels (AP) - Staff of the Belgian airline Sabena went on strike again for one day, after unanimously rejecting a draft agreement reached last week between management and unions. All except early flights were cancelled.

Rail toll rises

Harrare (Reuter) - The death toll in Zimbabwe's worst railway accident, a Christmas Eve derailment near the coal mining town of Hwange, rose to 34 when three more bodies were found in the wreckage.

Burglar, aged 7

Liege (AP) - A seven-year-old gipsy boy who entered a house at night after breaking a window was arrested in possession of stolen jewelry. Several houses in the area were burgled recently.



Anniversary march: Afghan exiles demonstrating outside the Soviet Embassy in Bayswater Road, London, yesterday, to mark the fourth anniversary of the Russian intervention in Afghanistan (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

EEC in Afghan anniversary appeal to Russia

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Britain and other members of the European Economic Community yesterday marked the fourth anniversary of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan by denouncing the continued presence there of Soviet troops and calling for their withdrawal.

A statement issued from Athens on behalf of the 10 member states of the EEC said they remained deeply concerned at continuation of the occupation and by the violation of the independence of Afghanistan.

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urgently to withdraw its troops, and said the countries were ready to support any constructive initiative aimed at finding a lasting and principled solution to the problem.

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More than 100,000 Soviet troops had failed to suppress the resistance to the occupation. Despite their appalling suffering the Afghan people remained determined to defend their way of life and to regain their independence.

In a communiqué issued from Bonn Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said that blood continued to be shed and no end was in sight.

● ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan yesterday renewed its offer to send home the 105,000 Soviet troops, but a key resistance

leader vowed that the rebels would fight until they drove the Russians out (Reuters reports).

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar of the fundamentalist Hezb-I-Islami Party, and vice-president of the seven-party alliance based in Pakistan, rejected any political settlement with the Soviet Union and accused Moscow of trying to deceive the world with its proposal for a negotiated settlement.

The Afghan offer, in a Radio Kabul broadcast, included a demand for international guarantees that all resistance would stop.

Ailing economy reels as unions get tough

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

With inflation approaching 200 per cent, Israel is facing an unparalleled wave of labour unrest which yesterday grew more serious when postal workers began an indefinite strike which crippled services and posed a new threat to the ailing economy.

Further public services are expected to be hit as trade unionists step up their campaign against the Government's declared intention of cutting real wages by 10 per cent and reducing the standard of living in an effort to rescue the country from its balance-of-payments crisis. Already this week violence has erupted at one workers protest march near the Red Sea port of Eilat and in Jerusalem, an angry crowd of 1,000 organized by the Israeli equivalent of the Trades Union Congress, paralysed traffic as it marched through the street, chanting "bread and work".

The violence in Eilat flared when about 150 men protested against the proposed closure of a local copper mine near the site of the historical mines of King Solomon. Tear gas was used to break up the demonstration and one policeman and two demonstrators were injured.

The bulk of the industrial unrest has so far been in the public sector which faces a 3 per cent manpower cut under budget plans to be presented to the Cabinet by Mr Yigal Cohen-Ozgad, the Finance Minister. He is also seeking overall spending cuts of about £1,000m. In addition to the postal strike, the Government faces other protests. These were yesterday reported to be imminent in the agriculture and transport ministries, the meteorological office, local government offices and the customs and excise department.

On Monday night, Mr Asher Oshayon, the director-general of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, gave warning that the ministry's institutions, which serve 100,000 Israelis, were on the verge of catastrophe as a result of wage demands. He

Breakthrough for Brazilian plane

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

Brazil's Embraer Aircraft Company is to sell 120 of its two-seater Tucano trainer planes to Egypt in a contract worth \$180m (£120m). The first 40 will be delivered next year in assembled form; the remaining 80 are to be supplied as kits, to be assembled in Egypt during the subsequent three years. Some of them may be sold to other Arab countries.

Embraer is also a contender for supplying the Tucano to the Royal Air Force, which will soon need 300 new trainers. The Tucano flies at 280 mph, and can carry two 120-kilo bombs, and machine-guns.

Embraer has also now gained its first firm orders for ten of the new 30-seater Brasilia feeder aircraft from a Boston airline. More than 100 options on the new plane have now been taken out.

Embraer hopes that the Brasilia, to cost \$4.5m (£3.1m), will repeat the success of the 18-seater Bandeirante, of which 450 have been sold in the past

seven years, 230 of them abroad, including several to Britain. However, the Bandeirante had almost no competitors when it first appeared, and there will be four planes to compete with the Brasilia.

● Antarctic trip: Brazil's second expedition to the Antarctic will leave for a ten weeks' voyage on January 6. Since its first expedition early this year, Brazil has been admitted as a full member of the now 16-strong Antarctic Consultative Committee.

Despite its economic difficulties, it has decided it must make an estimated annual outlay of at least \$25m on its research programme, so as to qualify to take part in the next meetings to discuss the future of the continent, due in 1991.

However, it is not proposing to make a territorial claim for any part of Antarctica, unlike neighbouring Argentina or Chile, parts of whose claims overlap and others such as Britain and Norway.

He said troops had intercepted groups of guerrillas

El Salvador says 200 rebels killed by Army

Villagers go to war with Rhine Army

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The 8,000 inhabitants of the little village of Augustdorf in Lower Saxony have declared war on the British Army of the Rhine, and are preparing "active resistance" to the Army's plans to build a concrete mock village near by in which to practise anti-guerrilla warfare.

The Army wants to erect a complex of 90 houses on the Sennelager training ground where troops will be able to engage in mock battles and house-to-house fighting. But the proposed ghost village, landscaped to blend in with local architecture, will be only 300 yards from the nearest house of the real village of Augustdorf, whose inhabitants are already up in arms over the continuous bursts of gunfire from the shooting ranges.

At a meeting just before Christmas, the local council voted unanimously to try to halt construction of the village, due to start early next year, and threatened to march into the closed training area and sit down in protest. They have already sent letters to the British Ambassador in Bonn

wanting to know what the Army wants to do to the village, which will include two-storey houses, farmhouses and several "strategic" public buildings, is needed to give its troops, as well as Dutch and West German forces, practice in street fighting which it says will be essential in repelling a conventional attack on West Germany.

Herr Adolf Steffen, the council director, said Augustdorf had been complaining about the noise from the range for the past 10 years, windows had been broken by vibrations and school pupils had to sit in the middle of classrooms for fear of glass shattering.

The Army says it has given proper notice and gone through the right channels.

The inhabitants of Augustdorf, however, say there has been no real consultation.

● GUATEMALA: San Salvador

retreating from fighting in nearby Ciudad Barrios 65 miles north east of the capital.

Radio Venceremos, the guerrillas' radio, has said more than 300 soldiers and 15 guerrillas have died during the Army push involving 2,000 troops. The rebels rarely admit casualties.

The Army operation was launched after guerrillas briefly took a strategic communications post on December 13.

Radio Venceremos has accused the US-backed Army of indiscriminate bombing of villages during the operation.

Following similar accusations by Radio Venceremos in the first week of battle, a Reuter correspondent in Ciudad Barrios saw no signs of bombing and residents said fighting had taken place outside the village. But military sources said the Army counts as guerrillas often unarmed "camp followers" carrying food and ammunition.

The Playboy group also

manages to placate the authorities while catering to modern tastes by interspersing pop songs with traditionally inspired music.

This scene at an annual charity festival symbolizes the gap between the official puritanism of General Ne Win's Government and the wishes of privileged Burmese youth, who are able to buy Western goods on the black market.

The star turn of the evening was a group called Playboy, the most popular of Burma's five or six pop groups, which began to appear a few years ago.

Even the name of the group, featured on big publicity posters with the inevitable logo of a pair of bunny ears, is provocative in a country where official propaganda strongly discourages Western tendencies, particularly among young people.

For these privileged children, mainly the sons and daughters of influential officials, jeans are better than the traditional longyi (a type of sarong knotted at the front).

Police have also begun raiding Rangoon's red light district, and have virtually closed down the half-dozen restaurants or bars in Rangoon where pretty young hostesses were available, at a price. But Rangoon people doubt if the crackdown will last more than a month.

● PARIS: M Charles Hernu

New Year in Chad

rumours by declaring that French policy remained unchanged. He then flew to Beirut to spend Christmas with the French contingent and discuss security and tactics with its commanders.

France has 2,000 soldiers in the multinational group, another 1,000 with the United Nations peacekeeping force. They are supported by the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, which is patrolling the Lebanese coast. Its aircraft include 16 super-Etendards

and 12幻影4000s.

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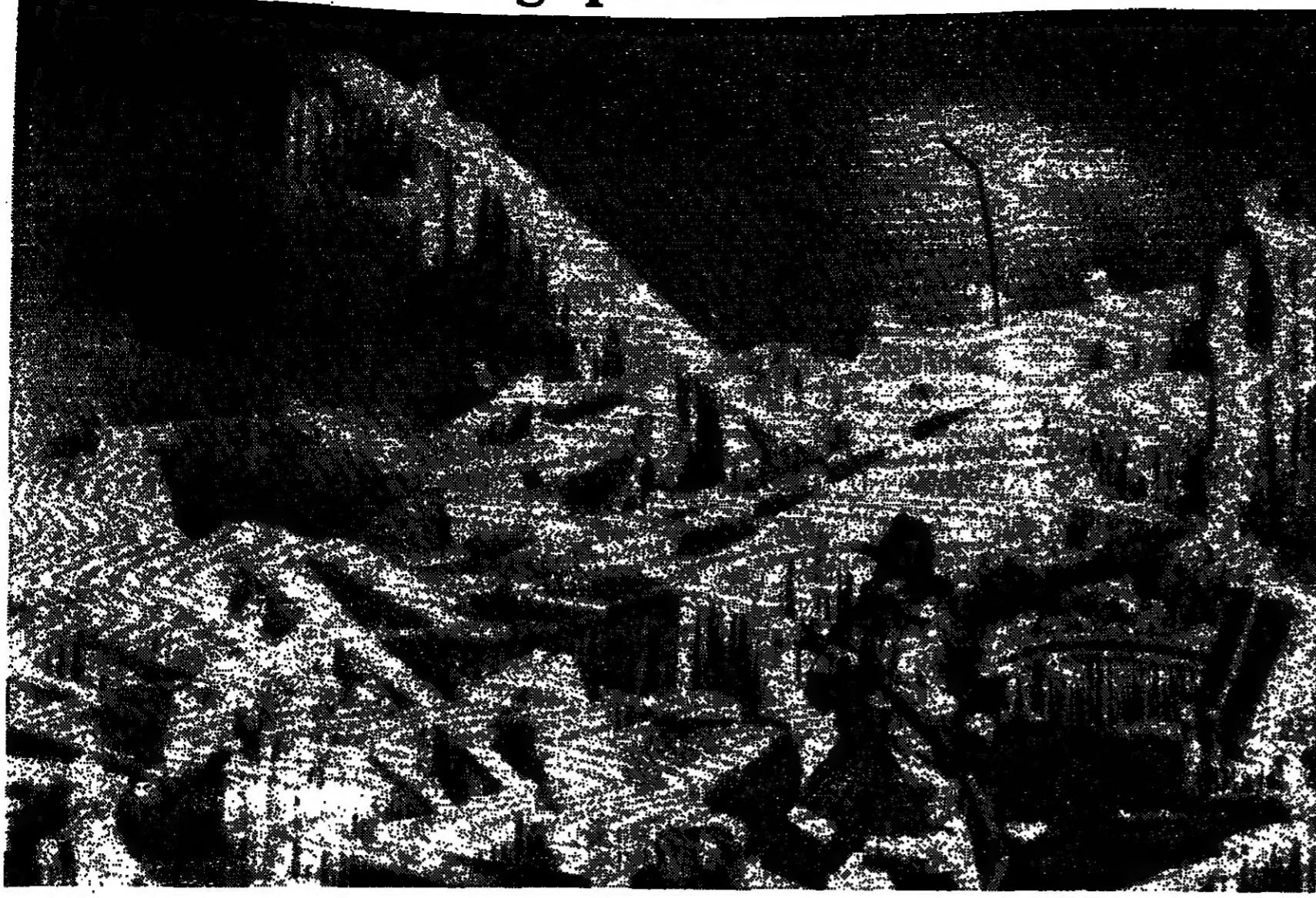
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The Big Snow grips America from the great plains to the Gulf of Mexico



Cold comfort: Firefighting in Boston and (right) trying to keep oranges warm in Florida.



Worse to come as death toll rises to 270

The death toll in one of the worst American winters of the century has climbed to nearly 270.

There have been 10 days of record low temperatures and forecasters predicted yesterday that more bitterly cold weather can be expected.

About 100 of those whose deaths are attributed to the weather have frozen in their homes and on the streets. In New York the cold has contributed to 14 deaths and this figure includes six people who froze to death on the streets, in the subway or in derelict buildings.

Near Albany, capital of New York state, a girl of two froze to death when she got out of bed on Christmas Eve

and wandered outside in her pyjamas.

Her name was Sunshine. Her mother was collecting Christmas presents from the home next door. It was not until Christmas morning that she was missed. They followed her footprints and found her body frozen in a porch. She had gone from door to door trying to get in after the door had locked behind her.

Police said she would not have survived more than 10 minutes in temperatures of minus 10F.

In South Dakota tons of coal were sent to reservations where Indians were burning their furniture to keep warm.

The cold wave covers much of the

country from the Great Plains to the Gulf of Mexico and scores of cities have recorded their lowest ever temperatures.

In Miami Florida, the temperature fell to 33F the city's lowest December figure. Throughout Florida, Louisiana and Texas there is concern about the citrus crop as oranges freeze on trees and green vegetables are blighted. Losses are running into many billions of dollars and thousands of fruit pickers have been thrown out of work.

People in the southern states are suffering particularly because they are not used to severe winters and freezing temperatures.

A television report yesterday showed the swollen blistered feet of a woman suffering from frost bite in Atlanta, Georgia.

Throughout the country there has been a spate of fires caused by overloaded heaters and firemen have had to cope with ice as well as fires.

One Lake Erie an icebreaker was harrowing to free 14 cargo vessels trapped in the ice.

There was a relative respite yesterday in parts of the country as temperature rose above zero for the first time in more than a week. But forecasters said that more very cold air is on its way from North-West Canada.

Cuba may be drawn into Pretoria-Luanda war

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South African forces are engaged for the first time in more than two years in extensive fighting with Angolan troops in southern Angola, and there is a risk that the 25,000 Cubans estimated to be in that country could become directly involved.

The fighting was initially described last week by General Constand Viljoen, the chief of the South African Defence Force, as a limited campaign against the guerrilla bases of The South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo).

The aim of the campaign, he said, was to blunt an expected annual rainy-season southward thrust by Swapo guerrillas from their Angolan sanctuary into northern Namibia. Swapo has been fighting for Namibia's independence for the past 17 years.

However, late on Monday, speaking to South African journalists on his return to Pretoria after spending Christmas with his troops, General Viljoen largely confirmed Angolan claims of heavy fighting and accused the Angolans and Cubans of sheltering Swapo.

Swapo was "playing a tortoise-like game", General Viljoen said. When things are quiet, and we are not there, Swapo gets out of its Papaf (Angolan army) shell and moves away, scurrying back when we appear. It's a very tricky situation. But if Papaf

gets in the way, we shall certainly shoot.

"We do not like becoming involved with Papaf and Cuban forces and would rather respect them in their areas and expect them to respect our fight against Swapo. We drop leaflets telling them that our argument is with Swapo and not with them," the general said. But South Africa could not stand by while Swapo benefited from the protection provided by the sophisticated weapons supplied to Papaf by the Soviet Union and Cuba.

The general said the operation had begun as long ago as December 6, although reports of heavy fighting only emerged a week ago. "It will go on until we reach our target - to knock Swapo for six and stop plans to infiltrate South West Africa, mainly the Sector 10 Ovambo area," he said.

According to General Viljoen, as many as 1,400 Swapo troops, fresh from retraining in Angolan bases, could be involved in the rainy-season offensive. Seven companies between 120 and 140 men each are advancing south along four infiltration routes in the central and western regions of southern Angola, he said.

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This part of Angola is directly north of the Ovamboland region of Namibia, where there is widespread support for Swapo. From there, if the experience of recent years is any guide, the guerrillas will try to slip eastward through the thick

Another suggestion is that the South Africans want to punish the Angolans for their brusque rejection of Pretoria's recent offer to disengage its forces over a trial period of 30 days from January 31, 1984, provided Angola undertook to restrain Swapo and Cuban forces

Protest note to Thatcher

Catalans back IRA bombers

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Nationalists d'Esquerra

nationalist liberties of the Irish people".

Here in Spain, meanwhile,

the Justice Ministry is studying whether political encouragement of ETA Basque terrorists is within the law.

Leaders of Herri Batasuna -

the left-wing Peoples Unity party which acts as a front for ETA - said at a news conference

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Speaking for Herri Batasuna,

Andropov's letter of apology leaves gaps

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov's unprecedented absence from this week's delayed Central Committee plenum has caused anxiety among party officials

despite the ailing leader's determined attempt to give a strong lead from behind the scenes.

Officials reportedly believe that while assurances that Mr Andropov's disability is "temporary" may be largely accepted in Russia, the lack of visible defences at a proper level. Failings in the Soviet system had led to a "certain strain" in drawing up the plan, but the task now was to work hard despite the difficulties - "of which there are many" - and eliminate bottlenecks.

"I have to say bluntly that proper concern for reducing labour costs is not shown in some sectors", he added sternly, in a flash of the old Andropov style of a year ago.

He lashed out at incompetent managers who paid workers undeserved bonuses, at factories which failed to reduce costs by using resources wisely, at planning agency jargon and consumer goods shortages.

"Inefficiency and ignorance of real market conditions mean that products are either scarce or pile up unwanted, and this gives rise to popular discontent."

One informed Russian said: "It would have been a powerful and effective speech if delivered in person. But how many in the party will listen to a man who is not there?"

Mr Andropov's speech was not that of a man who is thinking of stepping down, and the promotion of Andropov associates such as Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov and General Viktor Chechrikov seems designed to ensure that his policies are carried out. Mr Vorotnikov, who is only 57, must now be considered a leadership contender in the Andropov mould.

With Mr Mikhail Solomentsev, aged 70, the Politburo now numbers 13, and Mr Andropov can probably count on a mathematical majority.

Tass yesterday announced that the plenum had ended with no important speeches on the second day. Observers had expected a statement on foreign policy - a subject not touched on by Mr Andropov - but it now seems that the Soviet leadership's view of East-West relations will be stated by a senior leader today or tomorrow at the Supreme Soviet.

Leading article, page 11

Lionesses put on the pill to give wildebeeste a sporting chance

From our own correspondent
Etosha National Park,
Namibia

An over-supply of lions in Namibia's Etosha National Park, one of the world's largest, most varied and perhaps least-known reserves, has given rise to Africa's most unusual experiment in family planning.

Led by Dr Hu Berry, a research biologist, a small team of specialists is hoping to establish that the park's lion population can be controlled by implanting time-release contraceptives in lionesses rather than by the traditional method of culling.

The park takes its name from the Etosha Pan, a bleached expanse of alkaline clay stretching to the horizon and hundreds of feet deep, which occupies more than a fifth of the reserve's 8,530 square miles. The pan is believed to be the dried-out bed of a prehistoric lake.

Driving out along one of the spits jutting into the pan, you can easily imagine yourself a lone explorer on some dead and alien planet. But the pan's wooded southern rim, punctuated by watering places, paradoxically teems with one of the richest and most varied concentrations of wild life in Africa.

Some of that richness is now threatened by man's well-

meaning attempts at preservation. A 500-mile-long fence, completed in 1970, surrounds the park, and was intended mainly to prevent animals from straying on to adjacent farmland where they risked being shot.

It also shelters game from the Bitter bush war being fought in Ovamboland to the north between South African forces and guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), which has been fighting for 17 years for Namibia's independence from South African rule.

But the fence has also stopped the age-old, seasonal migration of wildebeest, zebra

and other hooved animals, which as a result of boreholes to provide year-round water-holes in an area prone to drought has further eased the task of hunting lions by creating perfect ambush spots, while an epidemic of anthrax, to which the big cats are immune, has furnished them with an ample supply of carcasses to feed on.

It is bad news for other animals, especially those who cannot stray far from water. The number of blue wildebeest, for example, has dropped from 25,000 in the mid-1950s to only 2,500 today. The zebra population has also declined.

Putting lionesses on the pill could be part of the answer. In South Africa's Kruger National

park, Dr Berry recalls, some 65 per cent of the entire lion population was shot in the mid-1970s. But within 17 months the number of lions was bigger than ever.

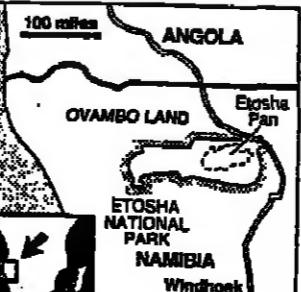
"As a result of this and other experiences we are now very wary of culling predators", Dr Berry says. "So we are testing contraception on lionesses. Contraception is more humane, does not destroy the genetic stock and is reversible".

Since July last year ovulation-suppressing capsules have been implanted in the shoulder muscle of 10 lionesses from five prides by Dr Berry and a gynaecologist who comes up from Windhoek, the Nami-

bian capital, for the purpose. Each capsule is reckoned to have a life of two to five years. The lionesses are first immobilized by an anaesthetizing dart fired from a shotgun. During the implant operation, they are blindfolded to shield their eyes, which stay open, from the sun, and sprayed with water to prevent over-heating as they no longer pant when drugged.

None of the 10 lionesses has had a cub since being treated, and rigorous monitoring has so far failed to reveal any adverse side-effects.

Unfortunately, it seems that cow elephants are too big and dangerous to be amenable to the same treatment, which would require almost a military operation involving a helicopter and ground support. Some 220 elephants had to be shot in Etosha this year because of over-population.



China's land is cultivated, averaging a quarter-acre for each of its one billion people. The old burial customs required selecting an auspicious grave site according to portents of wind and water. Earthworks reports: "More often than not good farmland was occupied. In Peking between 1949 and 1964 graves used over 526 acres of fertile fields."

There are about 2,500 crematoria in China which account for 90 per cent of all bodies in the cities, but only 30 per cent nationally.

Just over 10 per cent of

Overseas News

The Times Wednesday December 28 1983

With all 250,000 for the Los Angeles, Well be dinners on be Express Card, Association at

Help send the Best of British to L.A.

The British Olympic Association relies entirely on voluntary contributions.

Unless £1½ million is raised, in public donations, we will not be able to field a full British team at the 1984 Olympics.

So, in the same way that American Express helped the National Trust, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, we'd like to help the British Olympic Team.

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So here's how we are going to help.

Every time you use the American Express Card at any of the 70,000 hotels, restaurants, shops and services that welcome the Card in the UK between January 1st and April 1st, we'll donate 2p to the British Olympic Appeal.

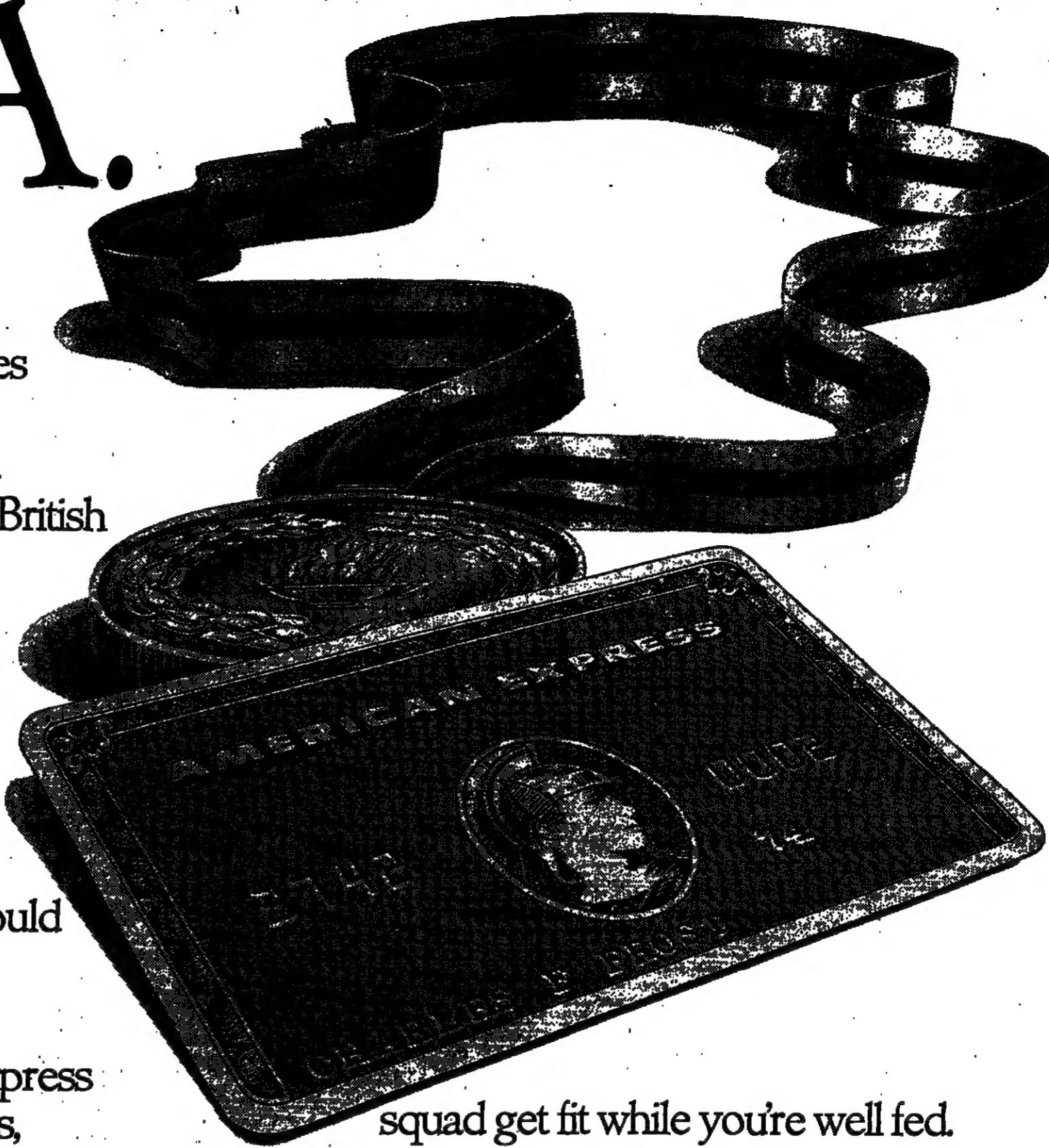
And when you buy American Express US Dollar Travellers Cheques (especially useful in Los Angeles) we will make a further donation.

When travel packages are purchased with the Card at American Express Travel Service or Representative Offices in the UK, we'll make yet another donation.

Every time a new UK Cardmember joins us, using the special Olympic application form, we'll donate no less than £5 to the fund.

With all this, we're aiming to raise at least £250,000 for the British Olympic Appeal, which will help to send the strongest possible team to Los Angeles, but that's not all.

We'll be organising official fund raising dinners on behalf of the British Olympic Association at hotels that accept the American Express Card, where you'll be able to help the



squad get fit while you're well fed.

And we'll be holding a series of competitions to win trips to Los Angeles to watch the Olympic Games.

If you'd like to extend even more help to the British Olympic Appeal, you can become a member of the British Olympic Association by writing to them at 1 Church Row, Wandsworth Plain, London SW18 1EH.

Remember, the more you use the American Express Card (and if you're not yet a Cardmember, our £5 donation to the Olympic effort is another excellent reason to apply), the more you'll be doing for British Olympic hopes.



Helping Britain's Team to the Olympics

SPECTRUM

The pornographic free-for-all has run out of promise in Sweden. Sex crimes have not diminished, prostitution thrives.

But a puritan backlash has begun with vigilantes raiding the porn shops and the rise of a God-loving pop star

End of the non-stop sex show

By Chris Mosey

Stockholm

The first snowflakes of winter dance in the air to a strange beat. In the futuristic heart of Stockholm — a square called Sergels Torg which is bleakly modern and paved in black and white — Maria Johansson, aged 65, is seated at a portable electric organ playing and singing, slightly off-key, "I have a Friend in Jesus".

Behind her, a monolith of steel in concrete and glass, stands The House of Culture, built like everything else in sight in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The same building extends backwards across a walkway into another towering modern edifice, which until recently housed the Swedish Parliament. This is now empty, waiting to play host to the Stockholm Peace Conference in 1984. In an act of unconscious symbolism, the parliamentarians have withdrawn from this desolate new frontier to their former headquarters on Holy Ghost Island in the city's medieval Old Town.

Maria looks up through watery eyes and smiles. "I have been singing here for 11 years", she says. "There is a need for God's message here — there are so many unhappy people in Sweden."

Three stops away on the Underground lies another of Maria's venues, an older, more human square called Odenplan, where drunks shiver on park benches in the shadow of Gustav Vasa Church and commuters hurry through the gathering darkness to catch buses bound for the suburbs.

Behind the church, just across the street, is a garishly painted red and blue door with the words "Non-Stop Show" scrawled across it. This is no longer true — the show has stopped. Sexorama, another desolate new frontier of sorts, has also been abandoned.

A container by the kerbside has been filled with the non-saleable fittings of a club that once lured tourists from all over the world to "Europe's wildest sex show". In a dimly-lit basement the photofit blondes with empty eyes were overdressed if they wore stockings.

Today Sexorama has been gutted by the bailiffs. Such accoutrements that were of value — amplification equipment to back the striptease, flashing

lights, mirrors from the private posing rooms, TV sets that once screened raunchy movies in a darkened video saloon, for example — have been confiscated by a state tax collector with the wonderfully appropriate name of Miss Birgitta Prim.

Two women, Miss Prim and Sweden's former Minister of Social Affairs, Mrs Karin Soder, have between them contrived to end the reign of Mr Ulrich Geismar, once dubbed "Sweden's King of Sex" by the nation's tabloid press. Mr Geismar now lives quietly in Spain, where he has been "unavailable for comment" for some time. Miss Prim would like to ask him about the £15,000 she claims he owes in back taxes.

Mrs Soder is just happy about his departure. The last vestiges of Geismar's "kingdom" are the now-locked doors of Sexorama and his other property, the more opulent Chat Noir, of which he once boasted on local television that customers included major Swedish multinational companies entertaining foreign buyers. Chat Noir was the top end of the market in a twilight world of sexual fantasy which is being slowly eradicated.

A law drafted by Mrs Soder, which came on to the statute book this year, has so severely curbed the activities of Sweden's sex clubs that most of them have shut up shop. At their peak in the early 1970s there were 14 in Stockholm alone; today there are just two, and one sexless topless "bar", where no alcoholic beverages may be served.

A country that only a decade ago was lauded by liberals the world over for its daring social reforms and sexual liberty has, in the space of relatively few years, gone back to its roots. A narrow puritanism has always been the dormant heart of a basically agrarian society, hurled into the modern age by an industrial revolution which arrived only in the latter half of the last century.

Towards the end of the 1960s and in the early 1970s, before the traumas of recurring energy crises and economic tribulations became commonplace, the future was always only just around the corner, like a shining liberated dream

beckoning seductively. Everything seemed possible for those in the vanguard of social change.

Their crusade towards a brave new world that never arrived led, in 1971, to the repeal of the already outdated Law on the Offending of Decency and Morality, which had until the mid-1960s been used by the police to suppress pornography. With its disappearance the floodgates opened.

Instead "sexually provocative poses", Detective Inspector Torsten Aslund, of the Stockholm vice squad, said: "The law allows striptease and the showing of pornographic films, nothing more." A series of raids and court cases has resulted. "Some of my best customers are policemen nowadays", said Mrs Sundin, "As a taxpayer I feel I am getting something back for my money."

Curiously, it is often the selfsame sexual liberals of yesteryear who now spearhead the advance of the new puritanism in Swedish society.

Mr Hans Nestius, chairman of a peculiarly Swedish organization called the National Association for Sexual Information, which fought for the repeal of the Law on the Offending of Decency and Morality, now bitterly regrets the consequences.

"When we took up the fight against the ban on pornography, the pornography that was around was shoddy, very bad quality. We thought we would bring about a happy, warm, sensual pornography — everything should be free and open", he says.

From his office window in Kungs-gatan, Stockholm's equivalent to London's Oxford Street, Mr Nestius now looks out on the H-Son emporium, Sweden's biggest pornographic book shop, lately extended to include private film and video booths and an air-conditioned cinema. Mr Nestius regards it with disgust.

"Pornography doesn't stand for sexual freedom, for openness, for sexual radicalism, as I once maintained myself. It is dark and musty inside a porn shop — there is a lot of shame and guilt there. The men who stand leafing through the merchandise always look dreadfully oppressed."

The arguments the sexual liberals used in the 1960s have nearly all rebounded on them: that pornography and the sex clubs would provide a sexual outlet for the handicapped and the elderly (surveys show that customers are overwhelmingly ordinary, usually married men, most frequently in their thirties or forties); that sex crimes would diminish as repressed sexual energy was given an escape valve (apart from indecent exposure,

all such crimes have increased steadily); that prostitution would become a thing of the past (the world's oldest profession still plies its trade).

Nestius, typical of the "New Puritan", sees no irony in his change of heart. He is merely continuing the crusade for sexual freedom, but in a different way. His association's July campaign, titled "Fight for Love", in which he and other members visited the holiday beaches of the Baltic island of Gotland quizzing and advising young Swedes on their sexual habits, was a huge success (certainly a greater success than it would have been at Blackpool, where such "openness" might well have earned Mr Nestius a fine). The rainy day came sooner than I thought. I was travelling to Bath by Inter-City 125, and British Rail have now tinted the windows so that every day on Inter-City looks like a rainy day. I went to the buffet. I dithered between buying a toasted ham sandwich and buying a toasted cheese sandwich. Eventually I compromised by asking for a toasted ham and cheese sandwich.

"Can't do that, I'm afraid, sir."

"Haven't got the ingredients", I asked.

"Oh yes, we've got the ham and cheese all right, but we haven't got a price for a ham and cheese sandwich. Sorry, sir."

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The new mood is no better exemplified than in pop music. Yesterday's idol was blonde Abba vocalist Agnetha Faltskog, who once bounced around the stage with a vitality that earned her the title "sexiest bottom in Europe". Today's is Carola Hagkvist, aged 17, whose stage garb is usually a singularly shapeless bikini judo costume, and who delights in taking about her belief in God.

Foreigners are frequently caught unaware by the shift in Swedish attitudes. Dennis Hopper arrived to take the leading role in a new British-Swedish coproduction titled *The Inside Man* wearing a "Pornography is Fun" badge, given him by Larry Flint, publisher of *Hustler*, the notorious American men's magazine.

"I gather it no longer is", he said.

"I've been getting some strange looks. I'd better get rid of the thing."



French lacquered cabinet once owned by Louis XVI that fetched a record price at Sotheby's in July

A treasure house built on Johnson's baby powder

The fine art of marrying well

Mrs Seward Johnson, Basia to her friends, is forming a stupendous art collection. She spent £90,000 at Sotheby's in July on a French lacquer cabinet, the highest price ever paid at auction for a piece of furniture. This was the first time that she was rumoured by the press as an auction purchaser, which is pretty good going since she and her husband, who died in May at the age of 87, have been quietly buying at top prices for 14 years.

The collection is housed in the pillared and porticoed Palladian villa that they built on their 140-acre estate just outside Princeton in the US. It was completed in 1976. "The local papers have been terrible," says Basia. "They even had helicopters fly over the house to spy on us. They have said it has 50 rooms but actually there are very few."

She explains that they were received because she likes to have very large rooms so that she can hang her tapestries — she prefers Flemish sixteenth-century courtly scenes. "Besides, I like to have air." For furniture she prefers the French eighteenth century and the English Adam style. And George III," she adds, for the library bookcases". However if something is nice enough she will buy a piece outside her favourite periods. She spent £15,120 on a pair of early eighteenth century English *Petit point* embroidered cushions at Christie's Godmersham sale in June.

Mrs Johnson had never spoken to the press before. "Please, no photographs," she said to me. "I don't want people to recognize me when I go around. I have many enemies — I think they envy me."

They would have very good

reason for envy. She arrived in America from Poland in 1968 with \$100 and married into the Johnson's baby powder fortune. It is a vast pharmaceutical business and Mrs Seward Johnson left her at \$300m at his death.

There were six children by his previous marriage, his widow explains, and he settled \$160m on each of them about ten years ago on the understanding that this was their share and they should expect no more at his death. "I had made friends with all of them," she says sadly. "And they all came to the house. But 24 hours after the will was opened they were all contesting

From poor immigrant to museum-builder

Now I can spend nothing until the legal actions have been settled." "Nothing" on Mrs Johnson's lips is a relative term. As she passed through London recently on her way to Rome, she commissioned a bell to be cast at the Whitechapel Foundry for the chapel she is building in the woods near her house. The chapel is based on a design by Vignola, the sixteenth century Italian architect, and features a square exterior, circular interior and dome. The purpose of the chapel is to house Mrs Johnson's collection of religious art and it is to be opened to the public. Beside the chapel a bell tower is to rise.

"At that time Mrs Johnson liked me immediately," she says, somehow managing to pronounce the name in just that way that a servant refers to her mistress. This was the reigning Mrs Johnson, whose place she was to take.

And then something extraordinary happened. She received a message from some Polish friends that Mr Johnson was very anxious to see her. He sent a car to collect her and bring her to his office. "I came not knowing what is going on.

I didn't know how to cook American cooking and many things went wrong. So Mrs Johnson said I could look after the children and do housework. I was very happy."

But a life of domestic drudgery was not what she had in mind. After ten months with the Johnsons as a living-in servant, she had saved \$4,000. She rented a little flat in New York, and planned to go to college and learn English.

Basia was promised "help for a better life"

He said, "I fell in love with you when you were in our house working."

"I never expect it, because we could hardly talk to each other. Sometimes I took his tea upstairs. And I remember at Cape Cod one time I had a beautiful bathing suit I bought for \$20 and I was passing by his boat on the beach and he looked at me. His daughter Jennifer told me later that the boat was nearly crashing because I was on the beach."

According to Basia, the millionaire

now told her: "I like to help you with a better life. I like to send you to school of diving because I am very interested in the ocean."

Seward Johnson confided another secret to his former servant. "He said, 'My dream — not only the ocean — but always my dream was to have an art collection.'

"I came not knowing what is going on.

I don't dare collect because I don't

have the right education." He and Basia went to an art dealer where Basia was able to demonstrate her expertise. They sealed the beginning of their romance with the purchase of a Mondrian, a Monet and a Picasso.

Johnson got a divorce from his wife and in 1971, he and Basia married. "We had already a lot of paintings by that time," says Basia.

Along with art collecting, the couple pursued Johnson's love of oceanography. They established the Harbor Branch Foundation at Fort Pierce in Florida.

Basia Johnson looks on her inheritance as enormous fun, but

she says, as a sacred trust to

the memory of her husband. "I know my husband's dreams," she says. "That is why he wanted to leave it all to me."

Geraldine Norman

moreover... Miles Kington

Cheese and ham, Big Brother

The last time I renewed my TV licence, I decided to round it up to £50 from £46 in order to give the BBC a bit of spare cash. I have always believed the licence fee was far too small, especially when I am being employed by radio, and I sincerely believed that if I paid the bill, and left a £4 tip, it would make the BBC feel better, and the tip might come back to me eventually. So I sent off a cheque for £50. It came back, marked "incorrect amount". I sent it off again, explaining that it was the correct amount, plus a bit over. It came back again, with a letter telling me that there was no machinery for accepting any amount except £46. Back I wrote again, asking in that case how I could donate the extra money to the BBC. The gentlemen in Swansay replied, humorously under the circumstances I thought that I should send the money direct to the BBC and that the best man to get in touch with was the Director-General.

That I did not do. Bribery is not a thing I condone, and although my motives would have been of the purest, it would have looked very bad if it ever got out that I was sending cash direct to the top of the BBC, so I decided to keep the money for a rainy day. In any case, one never knows, does one, just what might have happened to the money it might have been used to buy another American programme, or keep Desmond Wilcox on, something I didn't entirely approve of, and then it would have been embarrassing to write and ask for my money back.

The rainy day came sooner than I thought. I was travelling to Bath by Inter-City 125, and British Rail have now tinted the windows so that every day on Inter-City looks like a rainy day. I went to the buffet. I dithered between buying a toasted ham sandwich and buying a toasted cheese sandwich. Eventually I compromised by asking for a toasted ham and cheese sandwich.

"Can't do that, I'm afraid, sir."

"Haven't got the ingredients", I asked.

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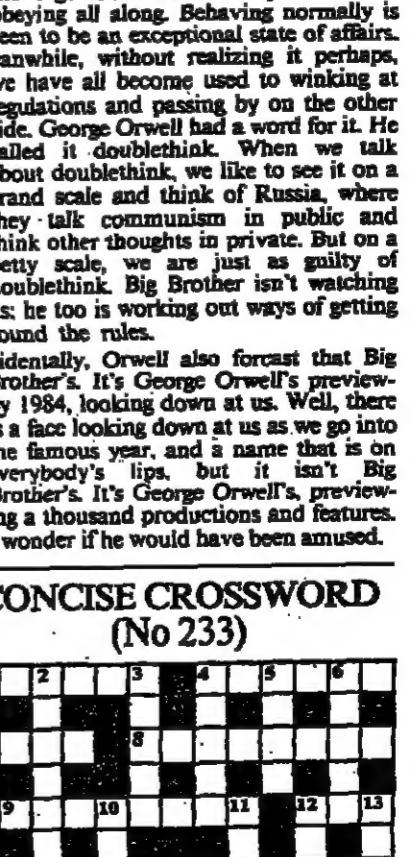
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CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 233)



ACROSS

1 Pronunciation (6) 2 Comrade (9) 3 Telephone computer link (5)

4 Serious crime (6) 5 Large area (8) 6 Sun away (3) 7 Newspaper chief (6)

8 Kill a tenth (8) 9 Large area (8) 10 Sun away (3) 11 Peterburg</

WEDNESDAY PAGE

COMMENT

Homeward bound

It has become crazily anti-feminist to suggest that the home is the most important place in the world. To say so is now to imply, by some slight of the language, that one believes women ought to be home-based and look after their own children. And of course, I am saying that, but not exclusively.

Years ago I remember being told by a Viennese savant of great years that there was no more deprived woman in the world than the modern western housewife, marooned in a house with nothing to do, or sharing her imprisonment with badly bored children. She had no part in her husband's working life. She would soon relinquish her children to the school system, and probably do so with relief.

Indeed, it is much of the poignancy of the woman in Noel Coward's *Brief Encounter* that her life was so confined to the Boots, the Kardon and with the string band, and the railway tea room. Hers was indeed the Barbara Pym world of minute detail and small excitements. Unable to be adulterous, she returns to dull old hubby and her nice house and accepts her lot. Such a woman - they are with us still as married men seem to enjoy permissiveness more than married women - runs a high risk of losing touch with the world, to the point where she is as solitary as a nun.

Yet she probably finds more tranquillity than modern working women, behind whom lurk considerable guilt about the quality of their mothering and their womanhood. I say this not merely because I detect or surmise it, but because honest and ambitious women have told me so.

My old Viennese described a peasant life he had seen all over east and middle Europe. It had its failings, but it had economic and domestic equality between men and women. Each was vital to the household economy, and knew it. I have worked with middle-aged peasants in France. A man did as much cooking as his wife let him, and rode a slender, athletic racing bike. The woman was a powerful companion to him in the fields. He did, it is true, most of the work on the tractor. But she liked driving it more than he did.

However you cannot be a peasant farmer in Greenwich or Grimsby and Celia Johnson's stoicism is somehow inappropriate now. And so the nanny industry flourishes. Some women have broken out of the home, and the only surprising thing is that too few of them have yet realized that in doing so they are only mimicking the disastrous mistakes of their menfolk. They have renounced doing and exchanged it for earning.

Believing, as I do, that modern methods of economic production - especially because they depend on a profuse use of natural resources and on misconceptions of what "growth" is - are shortly going to be redundant, it becomes important to develop alternative patterns of work and the provision of goods and services. It seems to me likely that among the changes will be a huge decline in earning power, and thus of the willingness and ability to pay taxes, and finally of the state's capacity to provide professional services.

I have a feeling that a great deal of relaxed, lateral, hard thinking is going to have to be done over the next few years. Some of it will stem from an understanding that computers make sitting in offices as redundant as it is boring and expensive in commuter energy. Out of it will come a new understanding of the amateur, the home-based, the voluntary. Fewer women will be longing for the day when they can abandon their children in favour of the sharp-edged briefcase. And fewer men will conceive the briefcase as their lot. A woman's place is very often in the home - and so is a man's.

Richard North

With eight of the twelve days of Christmas still to go I prescribe hysterical water for the cook and sunset water for those who have tarried too long at the gaming board. And if neither of these is sufficiently restorative, the only remedy may be a couple of days on a diet of soup and grateful pudding.

To make hysterical water, wrote Hannah Glasse in 1747: "Take Redony, Roots of Sowage, Seeds of wild Parsnips, of each two Ounces, Roots of single Piony four Ounces, of Myseloe of the Oak three Ounces, heat all these together, and add to them a quarter of a Pound of dried Mellipedes, pour on these three Quarts of Mugwort-water, and two Quarts of Brandy, let them stand in a close Vessel eight Days, then distil it in a cold Still posted up, You may draw off nine Pints of Water to sweeten it to your Taste. Mix all together, and bottle it up."

Dried millipedes indeed. I fancy they would be more likely to induce hysterics than to cure them. Mind you, her *sorcery*

Castaways come in from the cold

Cindy Buxton and Annie Price have braved war and isolation to become two of Britain's leading wildlife film-makers, as Nancy Mills reports

When Cindy Buxton and Annie Price arrived on the island of South Georgia in the South Atlantic in October 1981, all they had on their minds were king penguins - the three feet high variety identifiable by the swatch of red under the chin.

They did not know they would get caught in the middle of a war between Argentina and Britain over the Falkland Islands. South Georgia, population 40,000 penguins, is 800 miles beyond the Falklands, but because it is a British island, it became a war objective of some value.

Argentina tried and failed to capture the two English film-makers. "The Argentinians sent a message saying they were coming to get us," Buxton recalls. "so we kept looking over our shoulders. We heard a lot of firing, but we were so isolated that they could only have reached us by air or by sea. It turned out their two helicopters were shot down, and one of their ships was destroyed."

At the same time, though, the two women had good reason to be afraid. However, stranded as they were, they coolly continued to mingle with the penguins. The Antarctic winter was approaching and food was running short as the conflict raged over the horizon. Finally, eight months after they arrived on the barren island and one month longer than they planned to stay, Buxton and Price were taken out by Royal Navy helicopter.

Brushing aside their "war" experiences, they returned to England to put together *Stranded on South Georgia*. The programme was shown in Britain as well as in countries as far apart as Finland, Japan and Yugoslavia. It is the wildlife programme that they intended to make, with a rumble of war in the background.

Buxton and Price specialize in photographing strange beasts in faraway places. They travel to isolated environments set up camp for an average of six months and film what they see, working under contract to the British company, Survival Anglia Television. Survival Anglia uses about a dozen teams around the world and Buxton-Price is the only all-woman team.

"Sometimes being a woman can be a slight disadvantage," Buxton acknowledges, "but every year it gets

Working in a theatre can afford periods of inactivity and solitude. I have welcomed this. With one brother embracing the Christmas spirit with such vengeance that he transported a large tree through the house up to his bedroom, and the other brother possibly creating more uproar in opting out of Christmas altogether, life at home has afforded neither.

During the week of pre-Christmas dress rehearsals I was posted at the stage door. Initially I was not very happy. Wandering around an empty theatre, unloading deserted rooms - I sincerely hoped they were deserted so early in the morning - was as unnerving as switching on the hot water. Another *Hansel and Gretel* recruit had instructed me to climb to the top of the theatre, enter the workshop and find either the red or the green switch; new to the work herself she was not sure which. On seeing my look of horror she assured me I would know immediately whether I had chosen incorrectly. Thereafter I was to spend the day sitting by the stage door.

Since I sat there in virtual isolation I did begin to wonder whether there were two stage doors.

water, based on herbs, spices and four gallons of French brandy, must have been more efficacious than the recipe which precedes it, a heartbreaking list of the 20 roots, 17 flowers and 19 seeds which went into the making of *Plague-water*.

Distilling was only one of many arts necessary to the mistress of an eighteenth century household, and it occupies just two pages of Hannah Glasse's famous book *The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy*. In the century before Isabella Beeton, Hannah Glasse was immensely popular and her book was reprinted many times.

Hannah Glasse, née Allgood, sloped in her teens and came to London from the north of England. She must have been a formidable energetic as well as spirited woman. Not only did she write a pioneering cookery book, but also she bore several children, and had a scheme to market a patent medicine called Daffy's Elixir, all in addition to her work as

Famine and feast

habitmaker to the Princess of Wales.

When *The Art of Cookery* first appeared, its authorship was attributed only to "A Lady", and Doctor Johnson claimed, wrongly, that it had been written by a man. But despite the success of her work, Hannah Glasse did not profit greatly by it. She lost copyright of the book when she was declared bankrupt in 1754.

The large format first edition of 1747 was the most beautiful, and good copies, rare today, fetch over £3,000. Next best, and exceptional value, I think, at £22.50, is the new facsimile reprint published by Prospect Books.

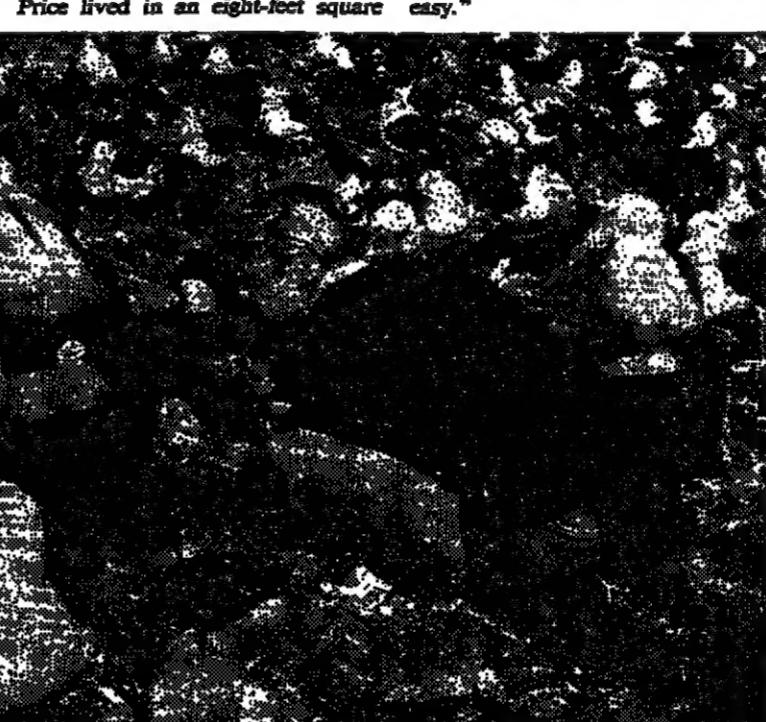
Students of old texts quickly become familiar with oddities of terminology, method and spelling which baffle readers new to their ways. The Prospect



Annie Price, left, and Cindy Buxton. They continued to film wildlife as the Falklands was war raged around them

South Georgia is one of the most isolated, unwelcoming places on earth. With an average temperature of 32°F (0°C) with 30 mph winds, it is a perfect environment for penguins and elephant seals.

During their stay, Buxton and Price lived in an eight-foot square



Cindy Buxton among the black browed albatrosses of South Georgia. "Neither of us had worked in conditions like this before. But the wildlife was tame and approachable"

DIARY OF A JOB HUNTER

In which Sarah Foot, Exeter University 1980-83, BA 2:1 History, takes a temporary job in a theatre and declines a career in music



This was no preparation for "front of house" work, which demanded periods of rather frenzied activity when loneliness was not a problem. A delicate looking girl had informed me she was happiest in the box office where she felt protected from the public. I have a more stalwart appearance and was therefore the better qualified to sell ice-creams at children's matinees. I would not make a teacher. Confronted by hands thrusting limp pound notes upon me, all of us frantically searching for the desired flavour in time for the next act, I felt a little vulnerable standing up to the youngsters' enthusiasm.

At first I was highly industrious. I wrote letters, read the papers, made numerous abortive attempts at crosswords, finished a book - reading as opposed to writing it (I had the time but lacked inspiration). Unfortunately I could not persist in such commendable activities. The poor lighting and warm atmosphere in my cubby hole meant that by mid-afternoon I had invariably degenerated into a state of dormancy and only revived to consume sufficient Yorkie bars to sustain convoys of lorry drivers.

I, too, used to be particularly partial to ice-cream but having had to "do the pick-up", a technical term for collecting rubbish, I have lost all interest. It was quite intriguing to discover the phenomenal quantities

and varieties of cans, chocolates and biscuits consumed during one performance, but this is no job for the fastidious - ice-cream is particularly sticky when melted.

Emptying ashtrays is worse, as they are made in what can only be described as the most idiotic design. When I tipped them upside down all the ash stayed in. Seeing me vigorously shaking ashtrays, one gentleman did offer to assist me. I think he feared for his jacket. He was a musician and played a horn of some sort. He told me how very, very happy he was as a musician and indeed, why didn't I become one too? This was somewhat tactless, for I was standing there with one of those great big dustbin bags at my feet, my obligatory black outfit stylishly spattered with ash and ice-cream.

At least I could sell the ice-

creams. The selling technique of the usher was held up for criticism, since not one of us sold a *Hansel and Gretel* record or cassette and we could not be said to have been doing a roaring trade in the gingerbread. One night I only sold a single packet of Handy Andies. This gentleman intended to "swear profusely" throughout the performance. I think he must have muddled the story or come to the wrong theatre as *Hansel and Gretel* ends perfectly happily. (He was not alone in his confusion, for I was asked who in fact was Engelbert Humperdinck and wasn't he supposed to be performing?)

Since I now know the story extremely well and can also sing a number of the tunes, I did feel that it was unnecessary for my brothers to provide me with a joint present of a *Hansel and Gretel* record. Indeed, I have done rather well this Christmas as I was also given a book compiled of amusing and instructive rejection letters. I wish I had thought of the idea first, for not lacking in materials myself I could have written the book while sitting by the stage door.

Sarah Foot

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

Books' reprint has a helpful glossary which is both scholarly and as readable as Hannah Glasse's own words.

"If I have not written in the high, polite Stile, I hope I shall be forgiven; for my Intention is to instruct the lower Sort, and therefore I must treat them in a manner fit for them. For example: when I bid them lard a Fowl, if I should bid them lard with large Lardons, they would not know what I mean: So in many other Things in Cookery, the great Cooks have such a high Way of expressing themselves that the poor Girls are a Loss to know what they mean..."

French chefs get the other side of her tongue. "A Frenchman, in his own Country, would dress a fine Dinner of twenty Dishes, and all genteel and pretty, for the Expence he

will put an English Lord to for dressing one Dish... So much is the blind folly of this Age, that they would rather be imposed on by a French Booby, than give encouragement to a good English Cook!"

So, what changes? *Soup meager*, mentioned earlier, comes in the chapter on dishes for dinner served on the church's fast days. "Take half a Pound of Butter, put it into a deep Stew-pan, shake it about, and let it stand till it has done making a Noise; then have ready six middling Onions peeled, and cut small, throw them in, and shake them about. Take a Bunch of Salary clean washed, and picked, cut it in Pieces half as long as your Finger, a large Handful of Spinage clean washed, and picked, a good Lettice clean washed, if you have it, and cut small, a little Bundle of Parsley chopped fine; shake all this well together in the Pan for a Quarter of an Hour, then shake in a little Flour, stir all together, and pour into the Stew-pan two Quarts of boiling Water; take a handfull of dry Hard Crust, throw in a Tea Spoonful of beaten Pepper, three Blades of Mace beat fine, stir all together, and let it boil softly half an Hour; then take it off the Fire, and beat up the Yolks of two Eggs, and stir in, and one Spoonful of Vinegar. Pour it into the Stew-dish, and send it to Table. If you have any green Peas, boil half a Pint in the Soup for Change."

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The book comes in three bindings. The standard edition in a grey cloth binding costs £22.50; quarter leather £25.50; and half leather with marbled boards £37.50. Stockists include the David Mellor kitchen equipment shops in London and Manchester. Inquiries to Prospect Books, 45 Lamont Road, London SW10 OHU.

Price took all the still pictures while Buxton shot the documentary footage. They selected the daily chores involving the melting of snow for drinking water. "Neither of us had worked in conditions like this before," Buxton says. "There was a team of scientists stationed just 15 miles from us, but we couldn't reach them by land." The women were totally alone, except for the 40,000 penguins, hundreds of elephant seals and some albatrosses.

Buxton and Price have worked together for three years. Before that, Buxton shot documentaries on her own. "Being alone didn't bother me, but sometimes now I wonder how I coped." She finally decided she needed an assistant when she began making plans in 1979 to film in the bleak Falklands. She called Price, a school friend she had not seen for 10 years, who became interested in photography while working for an advertising agency in London.

"The Argentinians said they were coming to get us"

"I do get a lot of people approaching me, but most of them I'd never consider," says Buxton. "I didn't want to take someone who would get fed up after four weeks, once the novelty wore off, and be dying to get home. I went to Annie because I knew her, because she was a photographer and because I thought she might enjoy going to the places I liked. I explained the conditions and told her that in no way could she change her mind and go home. I told her the worst."

The pair have been filming green turtles, sea birds and native wildlife on Ascension Island, a volcanic island in the South Atlantic with a population of about 1,000 - and with its tropical temperatures, quite a change from South Georgia.

Of her film-making philosophy, Buxton says, "I choose my own subjects. I'll visit the location if I can. Then I'll write out the basic story line of the film or films. Hopefully, there will be more than one. Then I work out a budget and schedule and take it to Survival Anglia. If they like my proposal, they'll finance it."

Buxton has worked for Survival Anglia for almost 12 years, initially as an independent film-maker, but for the past eight years under contract. The company has never turned down any of her proposals, and already she has the go-ahead for a project in south-west Spain starting in September 1984.

"In that part of Spain", she says, "there are these massive, great sand dunes, 100 feet tall, that move at a rate of 20 feet a year. They smother the pine forest and then gradually move on. The forests have 50 or 60 years to recover until the next sand dune comes along."

"I think there's a really good story there."

Stranded on South Georgia will be broadcast on the ITV network on Sunday.

© International Herald Tribune

FIRST PERSON

Peter Morris

My lease of life

A year ago I had the largest of the three lobes of my right lung removed after a malignant tumour had increased the size of a cricketball to 15 cubic centimetres. To mark the first anniversary of the operation, I got on my bike and cycled 12 miles to a pool, whence I dismounted and swam a mile. I was fairly pleased with my performance, but had hoped to crawl the mile but, in the event, had to resort to the less breathtaking breaststroke.

At the time of my operation I feared I had pushed my last pedal and crawled my last length. The physiotherapist had no information about the physical capabilities of people with one or one and a bit lungs. I remember moaning about the prospect to a night sister during a nocturnal chat. "Well," she said, "what did you do before you started all this swimming and cycling?" I smoked, I replied. Which was true. I had stubbed out the last of my 60 fags a day two years earlier and had taken up the physical exercise to monitor my progress. The goddess of health has a funny sense of humour.

Whatever, I've proved to my own satisfaction that cancer is not necessarily the end, either of life or an active physical existence. One big qualification needs to be made: I was one of the lucky ones. My primary tumour was discovered at the relatively young age of 39. Lung cancer is the most lethal cancer to which men are prone (in the case of women, it's breast cancer). One of the main reasons why is because it is often not tracked down until the primary has seeded secondary growths elsewhere in the body.

It is coping with the psychological rather than the physical aftermath which is the most difficult. I put a brave face on it but I'm a cancerphobe all the same. Each time I suspect a recrudescence of the symptoms, I panic inside. My chief symptom, unusually so, was night fever; this is more commonly associated with TB rather than cancer. Now, if ever I wake up and feel the slightest bit damp anywhere, it's the shivers and trembles.

The other sensation which provokes mild frenzy is lethargy. Now, before the doctor found otherwise, I thought



THE TIMES DIARY

Dobson's choice

Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Holborn and St Pancras, has written a starchy letter to the Prime Minister suggesting that the venue of the next world economic summit, to be held next June, should be switched from Lancaster House "to somewhere in Hackney or Tower Hamlets so that those presiding over the current world recession can observe at first hand the disastrous consequences of what is happening to the worst-off people in our capital city." He also suggests that "all concerned, instead of staying at public expense in lush West End luxury hotels, lodge instead in the bed and breakfast hotels used by London local authorities to house families made homeless by the policies of your own Government." Mr Dobson said he made the suggestion because "world leaders live in a cocoon, going from five star hotel to VIP lounge to private plane". One wonders, though, whether living in Tower Hamlets for a bit would give them a true picture about the lives of the less fortunate, since its residents include Dr and Mrs David Owen and Janet Street-Porter.

In confidence

The computer sub-committee of the Commons Services Committee is finding its job hard going. Earlier this month a trip to the United States and Canada to research information technology was cancelled after accusations of junketing. And the committee is encountering fierce resistance to anything that might bear the dreaded label "up-to-date". To computerize the House of Commons would mean MPs sharing basic information so that, for instance, some constituents' problems and the answers to them could be stored in a memory bank. Sadly, the committee reports in its minutes of evidence that 66 per cent of MPs questioned opposed a new system on offer, on the grounds that "members always suspect each other; members are jealous of one another; and the House of Commons is not a commercial organization".

• A visitor lost in the rambling corridors of County Hall thought the GLC had totally taken leave of its senses when he came across a sign directing him to "Alternative Gentlemen's".

Moved to tears

A colleague who planned to move into a new house in Buckinghamshire over Christmas was shocked to discover an old deed of covenant relating to the property. Originally imposed by a brewery anxious to protect a pub - long since disappeared - next door, it prohibits "the manufacture, sale or consumption of alcohol on the premises". His relief when his solicitor discovered that the prohibition could not be legally enforced and that Christmas could be celebrated in the traditional Fleet Street manner was profound.

BARRY FANTONI



"As a sign of respect, our Lib is wearing her helmet at half-mast"

Easy buck

It is the season of the year when certain privileged people, including the Prime Minister, the Lord Mayor of London, and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, receive a good-sized piece of venison under the Queen's Warrant. The custom goes back to 1100 AD, although these days the recipients are charged £6.50 for the privilege. This still makes the venison the cheapest in town: the average weight of the "gift" is 14lb, while the retail price of venison at Sainsbury's is £3 a lb.

That figures

The Civil Service's Management and Personnel Office broke new ground in its annual report on public bodies for 1983, when it produced figures on the number of men and women appointed to the boards of nationalized industries during this year. The figures are: Male appointments: 165. Female appointments: 4.

Saumur, aye

In his new book, *The Illustrated Winespeak: Ronald Seale's Wicked World of Wine-tasting*, the cartoonist attacks the uninspired wine-taster of brokers attempting "to enlighten the baffled consumer regarding the more esoteric aspects of, say, Rotterdam rouge" with inspired drawings illustrating their verbal contortions. The book, which has gone into its fourth printing since October, is about to be published by the Japanese, who once made the author a prisoner-of-war. The question is: how do descriptions like "overripe" coupled with some tartness" or "lots of body, but supple" translate into Japanese?

PHS

Let's ease this bed of nails

by Alfred Morris

the present Government's interpretation of the law, but that of successive governments. The family's pleasure must have been increased by the knowledge that the tribunal's ruling would help in many other cases of avoidable hardship.

One such case was that of an 80-year-old Cleveland woman with terminal cancer. She claimed a single payment to buy a high-backed chair, as she could no longer sit in her own chairs without pain, but was turned down. Help should now readily be available in cases like hers, but this was not to be.

The tribunal's ruling that single payments for medical needs were allowable was reversed by amending Government regulations. While the pen that nullified the tribunal's decision was the Chancellor's. And as with the swinging cut in housing benefits and this year's £60m "saving" in invalidity pensions for the long-term sick and disabled, the beneficiaries will be Britain's richest taxpayers.

How many people were wrongly refused single payments under the 1976 Act before the law was changed? And is the Government now prepared, in the cause of elementary justice, to review all claims for medical or similar needs that were turned down before it changed the law?

Ministers cannot pretend the money is not available. Norman Tebbit spent £39,000

publicizing the compensation available to people who broke their contracts of employment by refusing to join a trade union, while Michael Heseltine earmarked £1m to campaign for "more positive" attitudes to nuclear arms. These are good enough precedents for the DHSS to follow now.

Supplementary benefit, as the benefit of last resort, surely ought to meet urgent needs where there is no alternative source of assistance. In these two cases, the NHS could not help; nor did the local authority. Yet a woman was in preventable pain and had a need which a caring society should have met.

So from where should such needs be met? The question is all the more urgent as provision for the NHS grows smaller, and as cuts in local government spending leave more and more disabled people without the help to which they are entitled under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

Never was a resource of last resort for unmet and urgent need more necessary than it is today. For it makes no sense to deny people help without which they can very soon find themselves in hospitals or other institutions, at far greater cost to the taxpayer and ratepayer alike. It reveals a gap in social provision as self-defeating as it is inhumane.

The author, Labour MP for Manchester Wythenshawe, was Minister for the Disabled 1974-79.

Christmas would not be Christmas without hard-luck stories with happy endings. This is a brief story about a happy ending with a cruel twist.

A Bristol woman was severely burned in a fire and needed a skin graft to her back. She and her husband exist on supplementary benefit, and he applied for a special payment to help buy a foam rubber mattress to ease her pain at night.

In support of the claim, he wrote: "The skin is very tender and easily hurt. She finds the springs on her present mattress put severe pressure on her back. My wife has been sleeping very badly because of the pain... and urgently needs a springless mattress to avoid further deterioration of her back."

With assistance from the Child Poverty Action Group, the claim became an important test case. It went to a tribunal of three social security commissioners (the equivalent, in social security cases, of the Court of Appeal).

Arguing strongly against the claim, the solicitor for the DHSS's benefit officer said the mattress could not be paid for because the Supplementary Benefits Act 1976 excluded all medical or similar requirements. The tribunal upheld the claim, however, on the grounds that the exclusion applied only to the weekly requirements of a claimant, and not to single payments for unmet special needs.

This happy outcome overturned not just

Why a star wars strategy could help keep the peace

European attitudes to President Reagan's "star wars" proposals - the move to develop a space-based anti-ballistic missile system, agreed in principle a few weeks ago - have generally contained elements of both assessment and derision.

The arguments advanced by United States analysts in favour of the programme, aimed initially at long-term research, have not even been thought worthy of serious examination in Britain, despite their revolutionary nature and their possibly momentous consequences.

The European media have variously described the Reagan proposals as "absurd", "irresponsibly expensive", "dangerous" and "alarming". There has been almost universal agreement that the development represents another dangerous and escalatory round of the arms race. Strategic studies departments and institutes have either doubted that the proposals are feasible or have suggested that they represent a return to United States isolationism. Few people, if any, have publicly suggested that there might be some important political or strategic advantage to Europe or, for that matter, that there might be collateral dangers to Europe if the Soviet Union were to obtain an unmatched advance in "star wars" weaponry.

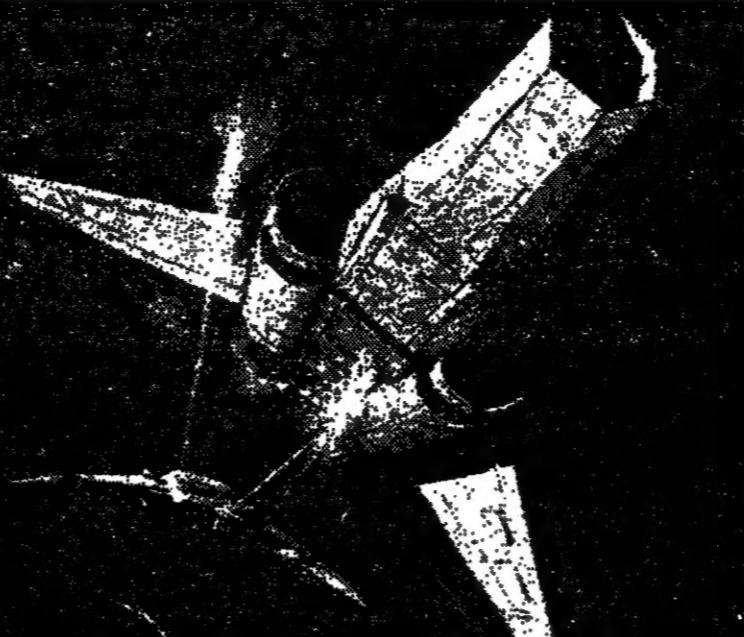
It is taken for granted that any benefits the proposals might yield would be purely and narrowly American ones. But if the development is taken in the context of the continuing crisis in transatlantic relations and the recent Soviet arms build-up, then it may be seen altogether more favourably.

Indeed, it may provide the answer to problems inherent in the Nato strategy of flexible response, which have long been perceived by a number of those with a professional interest in strategic issues - weaknesses which politicians have generally not been keen to expose to public scrutiny. These weaknesses flow from the nature of the ultimate step in the flexible response strategy: the use of US intercontinental missiles in retaliation against a Soviet attack on Europe.

Moreover, even with significant numbers of cruise and Pershing missiles in place, such doubts and anxieties are likely to remain. The question that may come to be asked is not "would the United States press the button against the wishes of European leaders?" but "would the United States ever contemplate pressing the button if it believed that by not doing so war could be limited to Europe?"

An effective western anti-ballistic missile system in space, however, could transform this situation by performing the inestimably valuable task of reducing the scale of the risks to the United States in providing nuclear protection to its European allies. If the risks are judged to be fewer, it follows that United States readiness to accept them is likely to be much enhanced, and the Soviet Union will have to take account of this in its strategic calculations. This is an important argument, but so far no European public figure appears even to have taken it into account.

Supposing, however, the Soviet



Union continues to exploit space for military purposes, ignoring the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 while the United States feels restrained by that treaty or by its critics at home and abroad. A moment's reflection suggests that if that happens the western alliance will be doomed; close examination of the consequences only confirms one's initial fears.

If the Soviet Union were to develop the ability to destroy 90 percent or so of the enemy's ballistic missiles before they re-entered the atmosphere while the United States failed to obtain a similar capacity, the Warsaw Pact might face a new and unique experience: a queue of admiring, friendly and sycophantic West European states waiting to join.

Since the United States Administration is committed so far only to examining the feasibility of "star wars" weaponry, we cannot be sure what degree of direct protection would be provided against missiles targeted on Europe. It is possible, however, that the "killer satellites", thought to be envisaged under the proposals could destroy ballistic missiles such as the SS20 as well as the strategic weapons aimed at the United States.

It is objected that the whole "star wars" phenomenon is in some ways more alarming than existing weaponry. Its development would certainly result in a substantial change of nuclear doctrine and strategy. Instead of the West signalling its intention to cause massive and unacceptable damage if attacked with nuclear weapons, it would instead be signalling its capacity substantially to withstand such an attack. Assuming that the Soviets continue to develop a similar capacity, we would have moved from mutually assured destruction, a policy which has caused profound if irrational anxiety, to mutually assured survival.

This, arguably, could well bring about a less turbulent and dangerous

international climate in which it would be easier to reach agreement about reductions in offensive weapons because by switching the emphasis to defensive systems, the stakes would not be so appallingly high. In this so-called "alarmism", Historically speaking, most effective strategies have generally included a defensive as well as an offensive element: the present massive reliance on weapons of attack is an aberration, and may well account for many of the fears and apprehensions that have fuelled the growth of the peace movement, however illogically.

To be sure, there is a strange breed of extra-terrestrial ecologists who argue that it is immoral to "take warfare" into space. But it is not warfare which would be sent there, but new instruments of deterrence. If that deterrence fails, the result would be a conflict between sophisticated and unmanned machines hurtling through the arid wastes of space, but it would be a war without initial loss of human life.

It cannot be safely asserted that war would remain conveniently in space. What may be said is that the immediate targets would be space-borne vehicles, missiles, or satellites, rather than cities or manned military installations on earth, and that such a conflict could conceivably end with a political settlement before human life had been lost.

This is a small part of the case that may be advanced in favour of some kind of "star wars" defence in the United States. Although it is new and strange to most people, it is not demonstrably absurd. Nor, I think, should it alarm Europeans more than, say, the deployment of the SS20s. It deserves serious and searching examination rather than scorn and derision.

Gerald Frost

The author is executive director of the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, London.

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The other-China card in our Hongkong hand

In the continuing negotiations with China over the future of Hongkong, Britain's highest card is not the legality of the nineteenth-century treaties. Nor are Peking's envoys impressed by references to annexes in the colony at the prospect of communist rule.

What really strengthens the hand of Mrs Thatcher's representatives is China's determination not to terrify the real audience of this high-stakes game: 18.5 million "compatriots" on Taiwan.

What stops China from abruptly regaining sovereignty is its desire to demonstrate to Taiwan that in the event of an orderly communist takeover, Hongkong's life - and by implication Taiwan's - would remain undisturbed.

Taking Taiwan back by force is out of the question. If Deng ordered his meagre navy and rickety air force across the Taiwan Strait, a distance of more than 100 miles, they would be mauled by the Nationalists' superbly equipped and trained defence forces.

At this would be possible under the terms of Article 31 of the Chinese constitution, which designates "special economic areas". But whereas Article 31 lays down principles applicable to both Hongkong and Taiwan, only Taiwan is mentioned in the constitution's preamble, as "part of the sacred territory of the People's Republic of China". It is, therefore, the document confirms, "the lofty duty of the entire Chinese people, including our compatriots on Taiwan, to accomplish the great task of unifying the motherland".

The "runaway province" is therefore, Peking's ultimate glittering prize. Or, as Taiwan's Premier, Sun Yung-suan, said recently: "We are the nail in their eye". It is mentioned as the primary goal of Chinese endeavour in nearly every major speech by Deng Xiaoping.

Finally, in July of this year, Deng Xiaoping made the most sweeping offer yet. Speaking through a Taiwan-raised Chinese professor who has lived in the US for 25 years, Deng guaranteed Taiwan its own army (which could buy its arms abroad), its own flag, and, most impressively, its own name: "Taiwan, China", the usage already adopted by the International Olympic Committee.

Deng's offer, too, has been turned down in Taipei. Premier Sun said that such advances are made only to persuade Washington that it is no longer necessary to defend Taiwan, now that China has abandoned the use of force in its reunification drive.

For the ethnic Taiwanese, descendants of coastal Chinese who have been settled on the island for centuries, reunification on any terms is abhorrent. They contend they have already suffered enough at the hands of the mainland Nationalists who reappeared in 1945 to reclaim Taiwan from the Japanese, who had occupied it since 1895. They have used it as a refuge since the 1949 communist victory. "They think of us only as a hotel, a bastion, and a stepping stone", maintains Chiang Kai-shek's son, would be offered high positions in the national government.

No one was surprised when President Chiang declared a month later that the Nationalists would never negotiate with their old enemies. They had twice before gone to the table only to be betrayed, they believed.

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China cannot smash its way in, and if it did, few would welcome the "liberating" army. So the Chinese keep up a successful campaign to isolate their rival diplomatically, and a less successful one to hamper Taiwan's international participation in commerce, scholarship, and sport.

At the same time, and as yet with little effect, China's leaders try to persuade Taiwan that their proposed semi-autonomy will not develop into the bondage of that other semi-autonomous region - Tibet. The mainland's signal to Taiwan is "Watch how we do in Hongkong".

Jonathan Mirsky

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J. R. Spencer

Life sentences: a barbaric lottery

Eight years ago Mrs Doris Croft, a middle-aged widow from Balsall, Cheshire, discovered that her elderly lover was about to desert her for a younger woman. She battered him to death with a rolling-pin in a jealous rage, and for this she was put on probation for three years.

Two months ago - as was widely reported - Mrs Pamela Megginson, a middle-aged widow from the nearby village of Whittleford, was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Old Bailey for an identical offence. Mrs Megginson used a champagne bottle, a more stylish weapon than Mrs Croft employed, and killed an aged lecherous millionaire, a more exciting victim than Mrs Croft's, who was the aging lecherous landlord of a public house. She also killed him in an apartment in Cap Ferrat, a more romantic setting than the Worthing boarding house where Mrs Croft's victim met his death.

But such trivia aside, the facts are identical. In abstract some sort of case can be made for saying that either sentence is the right one on such facts as these, but as it is supposedly the first principle of law that like cases should be treated alike, we may ask how the law can be so capricious.

In theory, the law of England does not recognize the existence of a *crime passionel*. On this side of the Channel a deliberate killing, however passionate, is murder, and murder is automatically visited by a sentence of life imprisonment, the judge having no discretion to order anything else. The defences of provocation and diminished responsibility sometimes operate to reduce a deliberate killing to manslaughter, an offence for which the judge does have a discretion in sentencing.

But on the face of it, neither of these defences is of much use to people like Mrs Megginson and Mrs Croft. For provocation, the defendant must have lost his self-control: it must be a killing in hot blood, not in cold. Furthermore, the defendant's loss of self-control must be the result of behaviour "enough to make a reasonable man do as he did". The jury decides whether these criteria are present, and as we all know, juries sometimes bend the rules.

Subject to this, however, there is unlikely to be a strong defence of provocation for a woman who deliberately murders a lover who has ill-used her. Diminished responsibility is also limited in scope. On the face of it, therefore, women who deliberately kill their lovers can expect life imprisonment, however shamefully they have been treated.

In practice, however, it is quite another story. In the first place, the prosecution, if it wishes, can bring a charge of manslaughter where it is technically murder, and no one can question its decision. Furthermore, if it does start off prosecuting for murder, the prosecution is quite entitled to strike a deal whereby the defence accepts a plea of guilty to manslaughter in return for dropping the murder charge. The judge has a veto over this, and can insist on the murder charge being tried - as happened in the Yorkshire Ripper trial. However, such judicial inter-

vention is rare. So if the prosecution is sympathetic to the accused, or does not want the bother of a contested trial, a person technically guilty of murder is almost guaranteed a conviction for manslaughter only.

This happens in a good many cases of passion, and was what happened in the case of Mrs Croft. If the conviction is for manslaughter rather than for murder, then the judge has a complete discretion as to sentence: fines of one shilling, and conditional discharges, have been given for manslaughter in the past.

In the case of Mrs Megginson and her champagne bottle, there was no deal between prosecution and defence and she was therefore tried for murder. She sought to rely on the defence of provocation, and the jury - after deliberating for five hours - found it was not made out. On her conviction



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THE SOVIET OVERVIEW

After Mr Andropov's failure to appear at Monday's meeting of the Soviet Central Committee it is becoming increasingly difficult to imagine that he will ever regain the political power he had a year ago. Even if he makes a physical recovery, which is looking increasingly doubtful, it will be regarded as temporary and fragile. The entire Soviet apparatus must therefore be trying to position itself for the succession. Yet Mr Andropov remains president and party leader and has managed to get some of his supporters promoted, so he remains a force to be reckoned with. Since those who have been promoted by him will not wish to lose their jobs they will do their best to see that he remains in office as long as possible, even if it means ruling from his sickbed.

His speech, read for him at the meeting, must therefore be seen for the moment not only as a defence of his own achievements and plans but also as a valid statement of policy by the collective leadership now in power. Whether or not it was written personally by Mr Andropov, it carries his authority and also presumably speaks for those around him who would wish to succeed him.

It is especially interesting for the urgency it attaches to improvements in the economy. It even goes as far as to say that, because the international situation has been aggravated by "aggressive imperialist circles", implementation of the economic plan for 1984 has become not just an obligation but also "a patriotic duty of every Soviet person". The appeal to patriotism, rather than only to ideology, is reminiscent of Stalin's similar appeals during the Second World War, and indicates the level of the economic challenge which the leadership perceives to be facing the country.

Mr Andropov says that "all our efforts in the economy are aimed in the final analysis at ensuring a rise in the living standards of the people". Nevertheless, it seems likely, especially in view of his patriotic appeals, that he is also concerned about the effects of slow economic growth on his country's defences. The link is made explicit in the recent CIA report from Washing-

ton that revised earlier estimates of Soviet defence spending. Previously the CIA had estimated that Soviet defence costs, measured in constant 1970 roubles, had been growing at a constant 4.5 per cent a year throughout the 1970s and were likely to continue at that rate into the future. Since economic growth would remain at around two per cent a year the military sector would be taking an ever larger proportion of resources, causing growing strain and intensifying the need for a choice to be made between civilian and military needs.

Now the CIA says that the rate of growth of military spending slowed down after 1976 and has remained at about two per cent a year since, or roughly at the same level as economic growth. The main reason is that procurement of military hardware - the largest category of defence spending - was almost flat in this period. Practically all major categories of Soviet weapons were affected, including missiles, aircraft and ships. At the same time costs for operations, maintenance and personnel continued to rise.

Selective quotations from the report will doubtless be seized upon in the West by critics of current levels of defence spending. This will, however, distort the message. The CIA is very careful to say that its estimates are "not a sufficient basis to form judgments about Soviet military spending" and that anyway, "despite somewhat slower growth in recent years, the costs of Soviet defense activities still exceed those of the United States by a large margin. In 1981 the dollar costs of Soviet defense activities were 45 per cent greater than the US outlays; procurement costs alone were also 45 per cent larger. A comparison of rouble prices alone shows that Soviet defense costs were 25 per cent higher than those of the United States". The report is also cautious about the reasons for the slow-down in growth, suggesting that "it seems related to a combination of complex factors including technological problems, industrial bottlenecks and policy decisions".

The new estimates therefore have only marginal relevance to

the debates on Western defence spending. Nevertheless, they are interesting because they suggest that the transfer of resources from the civilian to the military sector stopped around 1976 and has not resumed. In other words, Soviet defence spending is for the moment geared to economic growth instead of outstripping it.

One of the implications for the Soviet Union may be that the Soviet military now have a direct interest in economic growth. In their eyes, of course, this is not the same as fundamental economic reform, which could weaken central allocations in favour of the market, thereby threatening their share of the cake, but they may now feel more obligation to lend their political weight to the search for efficiency and growth through modest changes and tighter discipline, instead of feeling, as they may have done in the past, that their own requirements would be met regardless of the condition of the rest of the economy.

Meanwhile the lesson for the West may be the opposite of that drawn by some critics of defence spending, namely that we shall have to cope with roughly the present level of Soviet spending for some time because it is causing marginally less strain than was previously assumed. Certainly there are no grounds for hoping that economic stress in the Soviet Union will solve our problems for us. As the CIA concludes: "Despite its problems the USSR is not on the verge of economic collapse. The Soviet economy is the second largest in the world, with a large and literate population, a huge industrial plant, and an enormous endowment of natural resources. Moreover, a highly centralized, rigid system of administering the economy enables the leadership to mobilize resources to focus on key objectives. The USSR has found ways to muddle through periods of economic difficulty in the past, and it will do so again in the 1980s. We emphasize that economic growth is likely to continue - not at the rapid pace of this year but at a trend rate of about two per cent a year. We would also note that the strains on the Soviet economy may be somewhat less than we thought a year ago".

Pressing query on Scott Lithgow

From Professor James Pickett

Sir, Questions may be asked about the Scott Lithgow crisis, may be asked of British Shipbuilders, of local management, certainly of the workforce, and of Britain. The most pressing question, however, is whether the Government's passive attitude is well founded.

Here it is not sufficient to note, with Mrs Thatcher, that the shipyard's record is abysmal. An ability to compete in the market for deep-water oil rigs would be in the national economic interest. Government consequently has a responsibility to be certain that Scott Lithgow cannot be brought to competitiveness before abandoning it. It should also be willing to accept that reliance on market forces is not the only route to economic success.

There are three positive elements in the present situation. First, many believe that the shipyard has made substantial progress in acquiring the managerial, technical and labour skills needed to compete in a difficult market; second, encouragement may be taken from a managerial and productivity experiment which has enabled a Greek ship engineering firm recently to complete an engine for Cunard in less than half the time it was wont to take (*The Times*, December 19, 1983); and, third, the desperation inherent in the situation gives the Government enormous clout. It will seldom have a better opportunity to enforce competitiveness.

In the circumstances, the Government should immediately offer conditional aid, making it clear that vastly improved efficiency is the main condition. The aid could in the first instance take the form of underwriting work for the 300-day margin apparently allowed for in the Eriksen contract. This would be in part self-financing through money saved on redundancy and unemployment benefits. It would also give all at Scott Lithgow a chance to show their mettle, at least postpone the legal battle between British Shipbuilders and Britain, and provide time for the Government to determine - expeditiously and expertly - the detailed conditions which have to be met if the yard is to be internationally competitive.

I believe that some such approach would be better for my town and our country than reprehensible inaction. Yours sincerely,
JAMES PICKETT, Director, David Livingstone Institute of Overseas Development Studies, University of Strathclyde, McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow. December 21.

Combatting Sinn Fein

From Mr L. C. Bailey

Sir, What an unnecessary bother is being created over the possible proscription of Sinn Fein! All that is needed is that every electoral candidate be required to declare before acceptance that he will neither incite nor advocate the use of violence in pursuit of political aims, or in any attempt to undermine constitutional government.

The onus of legitimacy is thus to be placed squarely upon those who aspire to power within it. We should not then be faced with the absurdity of electing to democratic government those whose prime concern is its destruction.

Yours sincerely,
LAWRENCE C. BAILEY,
19 Sharnham Cross Road,
Solihull, West Midlands.

Justice for ratemakers

From Mr Roland C. Rennch

Sir, I am increasingly astonished by people such as Sir Jack Smart, Chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities who, when rejecting the Government's case for rate-capping, frequently refer to "the democracy of local government".

How can the present system possibly be regarded as democratic when millions of individuals with incomes above the national income-tax liability threshold make no direct contribution to their local councils (in the same way as ratemakers) yet are able to enjoy the luxury of "representation without taxation"? Naturally, they couldn't care two hoots about the financial implications of bare-brained schemes espoused by some councillors or empire-building aspirants of the bureaucracy.

Not only would rate-capping prove unnecessary, but equity and justice in the funding of local government will only be achieved when the domestic rating system is abolished and replaced by a local income tax system. A detailed and convincing argument for not so doing has yet to be made public by this Government.

Yours sincerely,
ROLAND C. RENNCH,
8 Minshull Place,
Park Road, Beckenham, Kent.

Navy cuts

From Mr Patrick Duffy, MP for Sheffield, Attercliffe (Labour).

Sir, Rodney Cowton's report (December 2) of the "Navy's success in postponing the rundown of its fleet of destroyers and frigates" does not alter the underlying downward trend which disquieted most members who spoke from both sides of the House in the Navy debate on November 28.

Since that debate, written answers to parliamentary questions reveal that only three destroyers and seven frigates are currently on order, that only six frigates have been ordered since May, 1979, and three of these are replacements for vessels lost in the South Atlantic, whereas five frigates and one destroyer are to be withdrawn from the active fleet during 1984 and six frigates in 1985.

At least as serious as the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When workers sink in the poverty pool

From Dr K. V. Roberts

Sir, Certainly a standard minimum wage has all the disadvantages outlined in your leading article of December 20. Nevertheless, if it were merely abolished with nothing put in its place the likely consequence is that wages in some occupations would fall below the level of subsistence level.

There is no natural barrier against this because the wives and dependent children of those who already have part-paid job contracts a pool of labour that can afford to work for low wages; indeed below a certain level their wages attract no income tax.

A family that at present relies entirely on social security has no such option, however, since any additional income received by one of its members incurs an effective tax rate of around 100 per cent.

Surely there is a better and less divisive long-term solution? The protection of a minimum wage without its attendant disadvantages could be achieved quite simply by distributing a basic subsistence income to all individual resident citizens. The level would depend only on age and be independent of other financial resources.

This basic income would replace most existing transfer payments and many tax allowances. It would enable a host of restrictions to be safely removed, including the minimum wage, and a genuinely free labour market established.

Hermione Parker has explained, in evidence presented to the recent House of Commons Subcommittee on the Structure of Personal Income Taxation and Income Support, how a basic income scheme could be established at no net cost to the Exchequer. Is it not worth considering?

Yours sincerely,
K. V. ROBERTS,
Culham Laboratory,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.
December 20.

From the President of the Retail Book, Stationery, and Allied Trades Employees' Association

Sir, Owners of slaves on the cotton plantations and employers of children in the coal mines would have been delighted had they been alive to read your first leader on December 20 ("Price for the job"). Fortunately for western civilization all those in our society who have sought to justify the exploitation of

Frozen funds for MSC

From Mrs Anne Aldrich and Mr Graham Petrie

Sir, The recent freeze on funds for Manpower Services Commission community programmes defies logic or understanding. This has been acknowledged as a successful MSC scheme, developed from the previous Community Enterprise Programme, and area offices have been active in recruiting sponsors to set up projects and agencies catering for long-term unemployed people.

Now not only new schemes but those seeking renewal for a further year are "frozen" for an unspecified time, leaving sponsors and workforces without warning, in shocked, bitter and disillusioned uncertainty.

Many community programmes like our own have been constructively used to employ disadvantaged people who had been left at the end of the queue for jobs. We have employed young adults with a history of psychological problems in a craft workshop setting where their rehabilitation has been unquestionably advanced by the acquisition of skills and working relationships resulting in increased self-esteem.

We have earned the backing of the relevant local union, employers' association, councils, mental welfare organisations, as well as that of our

customers. A team of gifted supervisors are now disbanded with the workforce.

The community programme scheme is known to have good returns for its expenditure, has filled places successfully and produced schemes of community benefit all over the country. It has given employment, developed skills and increased opportunities to acquire permanent employment.

The Youth Training Scheme, on the other hand, has had problems in getting off the ground and is acknowledged to be underspent by a large margin. Is it beyond the bounds of possibility (or logic) to transfer unspent millions from the budget of an unproven and less successful scheme to an established and successful one?

If the Government releases further funds eventually for the community programme sponsor will be hard to find the second time round. The abandonment of schemes in a programme of such potential reduces their credibility to vanishing point.

Yours faithfully,

ANNE ALDRICH, Director,
GRAHAM PETRIE, Chairman,
Castle Project,
2 Benet Place,
Linsfield Road,
Cambridge.
December 14.

Captain Cook's end

From Lieutenant-Commander Lloyd W. Barnes

Sir, In a travel article entitled "Aloha, hula and goodbye to an Hawaiian odyssey" (December 17) you refer to the exploits of Captain James Cook in the history of the "our" chamber of commerce, etc. In this country we only refer to "the" schools.

Having just returned from the USA, I was struck by the difference in attitude towards local government. They refer to "our" schools, "our" chamber of commerce, etc. In this country we only refer to "the" schools.

I beg to differ. Captain Cook was slain at Kealakekua Bay on the big Island of Hawaii on February 14, 1779. This location is far away from Diamond Head; presumably you mean Waikiki.

A monument has been erected to Captain Cook at Kealakekua Bay and this monument is visited and maintained regularly by officers and men of the Canadian Navy.

Yours, etc.,
LLOYD BARNES,
Canadian High Commission,
Defence Liaison Staff,
Macdonald House,
1 Grosvenor Square, W1.

Deaths of kings

From Mr Oliver Gillie

Sir, Bernard Levin's attempt to rewrite British history (December 22) does not do him credit.

Argumentation about the normal human life span is no substitute for facts when considering how our last four kings died. In 1971 we are told in *The Sunday Times* (Magazine, September 4) that our last four kings died of smoking diseases and this has never been seriously challenged by any historian or doctor.

Edward VII started to suffer from bronchitis in his late forties. He was advised by his doctors to smoke less but paid no attention. In his sixties the monarch became severely short of wind and instead of stalking deer had to have them driven on to his gun. He was 68 when, still a smoker, he died of a heart attack.

George V also suffered from severe bronchitis for a large part of his adult life. In 1928, aged 63, he suffered from an attack of pneumonia, which would have killed anyone without expert medical attention.

George VI, who smoked 40 to 50 cigarettes a day, did not only die (aged 56) of lung cancer but started to suffer from obstruction to the circulation of the right leg at the age of 52. He had to have an operation to cut nerves - a sympathectomy - to save the right leg.

Edward Duke of Windsor, who was briefly Edward VIII, narrowly escaped death in 1964 when he was operated on for an aneurysm of the aorta - a common consequence of heavy smoking. Eventually he died, eight years later, aged 77, of cancer of the throat.

The seven serious diseases suffered by the four kings - two cancers, two severe arterial problems, two chronic bronchitis and a heart attack - are all common consequences of smoking and led to their demise. If they had not smoked and had died of old age these Kings might reasonably have been expected to live into their eighties.

Yours sincerely,

OLIVER GILLIE,
Medical Correspondent,
The Sunday Times,
61 Dartmouth Park Road, NWS.
December 22.

Personalities change

From the Reverend Canon J. G. Grimwade

Sir, I find it surprising that you give only four lines to the statement in today's *Times* (December 21) that if there were a chance to be anyone else, Mrs Thatcher would choose to be Mother Teresa.

If this is how the Prime Minister feels it implies an immense change in the Government's health and social policies in the coming year.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN GRIMWADE,
The Rectory,
Stow-on-the-Wold,
Oxford,
December 21.

COURT AND SOCIAL

Forthcoming marriages

Dr M. Abbott
and Dr J. Weeks
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Abbott, of Hartford, Cheshire, and Jennifer Hilary, eldest daughter of Mr Robert Weeks, F.R.C.S., and Dr Avril Weeks, of Radyr, South Glamorgan.

Mr R. G. Andrews
and Miss S. Falkiner
The engagement is announced between Raymond Geoffrey, elder son of Mr Derek Andrews, and of Mrs Mary Andrews, 32 Dellwood Avenue, Felixstowe, Suffolk, and Sophia, elder child of Mr and Mrs Richard Falkiner, 15 Yarrell Mansions, Queens Club Gardens, London, W14 9TB.

Mr R. Lilley
and Miss R. Hughes
The engagement is announced between Roger, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. N. Lilley, of Blythe Bridge, Staffordshire, and Ruth, elder daughter of Mrs M. Hughes and the late Frank Hughes, of Nantwich, Cheshire.

Mr A. S. Macay
and Miss M. Malaise
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Dr and Mrs W. S. S. Macay, of Hambledon, Surrey, and Myriam, daughter of Pastor and Mrs A. Malaise, of Crissier, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Sergeant Lieutenant S. C. Sheard, RN
and Miss S. A. Scott

The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Dr and Mrs M. E. Sheard, of Spring Hill Court, Nailsworth, and Sally-Anne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A. M. Scott, of Christmas Pie House, Christmas Pie, near Guildford.

Birthdays today

Sir Henry Bland, 74; Mr W. A. Camps, 73; Mr D. C. Carr, 57; Sir Andrew Mailand-Makill-Crichton, 73; Sir Bayard Dill, 78; Mr T. W. Gould, VC, 59; Mr Roy Hattersley, MP, 51; Lieutenant-General Sir George Lea, 71; Lord Justice O'Connor, 69; Mr Simon Raven, 56; Professor E. J. Richards, 69; Lord Salmon, 80; Miss Maggie Smith, 49.

Latest appointments

Mr David Evans, Master of Dulwich College, London, is to succeed Mr Roger Ellis, Master of Marlborough College, as Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference.

Air Commodore Geoffrey J. B. Claredge to be Secretary of The British Association of Occupational Therapists.

Latest wills

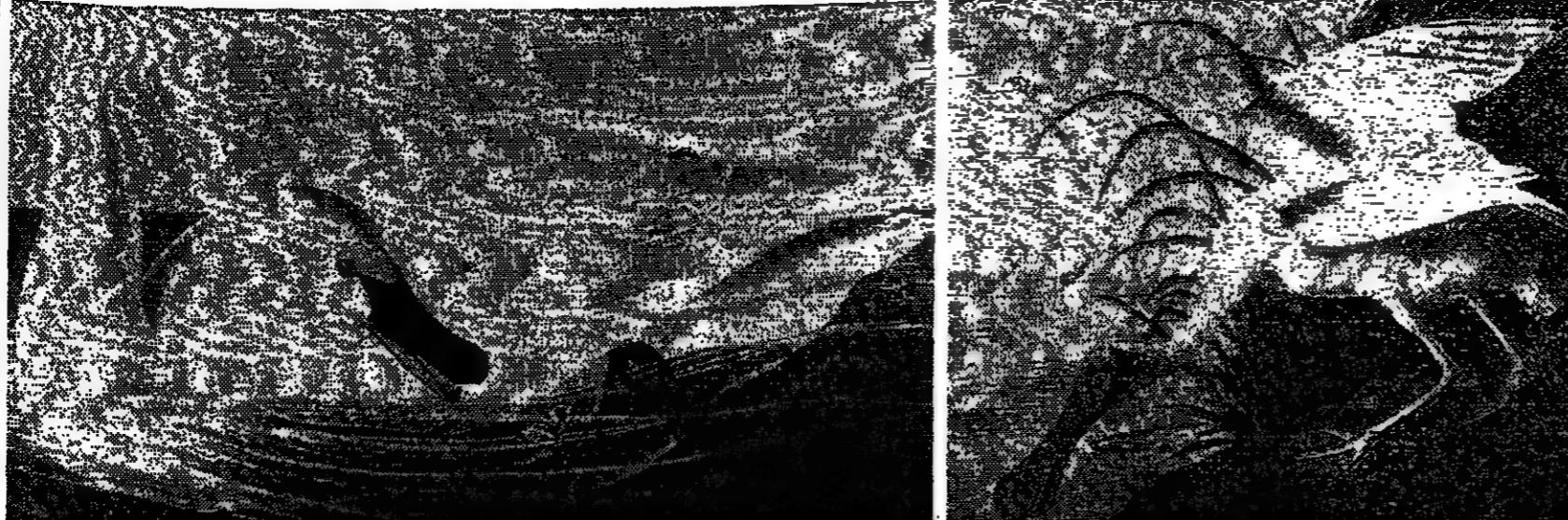
Allen, Mr David Charles, of North Stoke, Oxfordshire £348,681
Barber, Mr John Arthur Bainbridge, of Aldburgh St John, Richmond, North Yorkshire £213,925
Edna, Dorothy Olive, of Warboys, Cambridge £36,584
Robert, Brigadier Charles Douglas, of Fram, East Sussex £470,335
Ward, Mr Geoffrey Ernest, of Westcliff-on-Sea £244,675
Kesner, Mr Arthur William, of Regent's Park, London, intestate £65,329

Murray to help 'Crisis' team

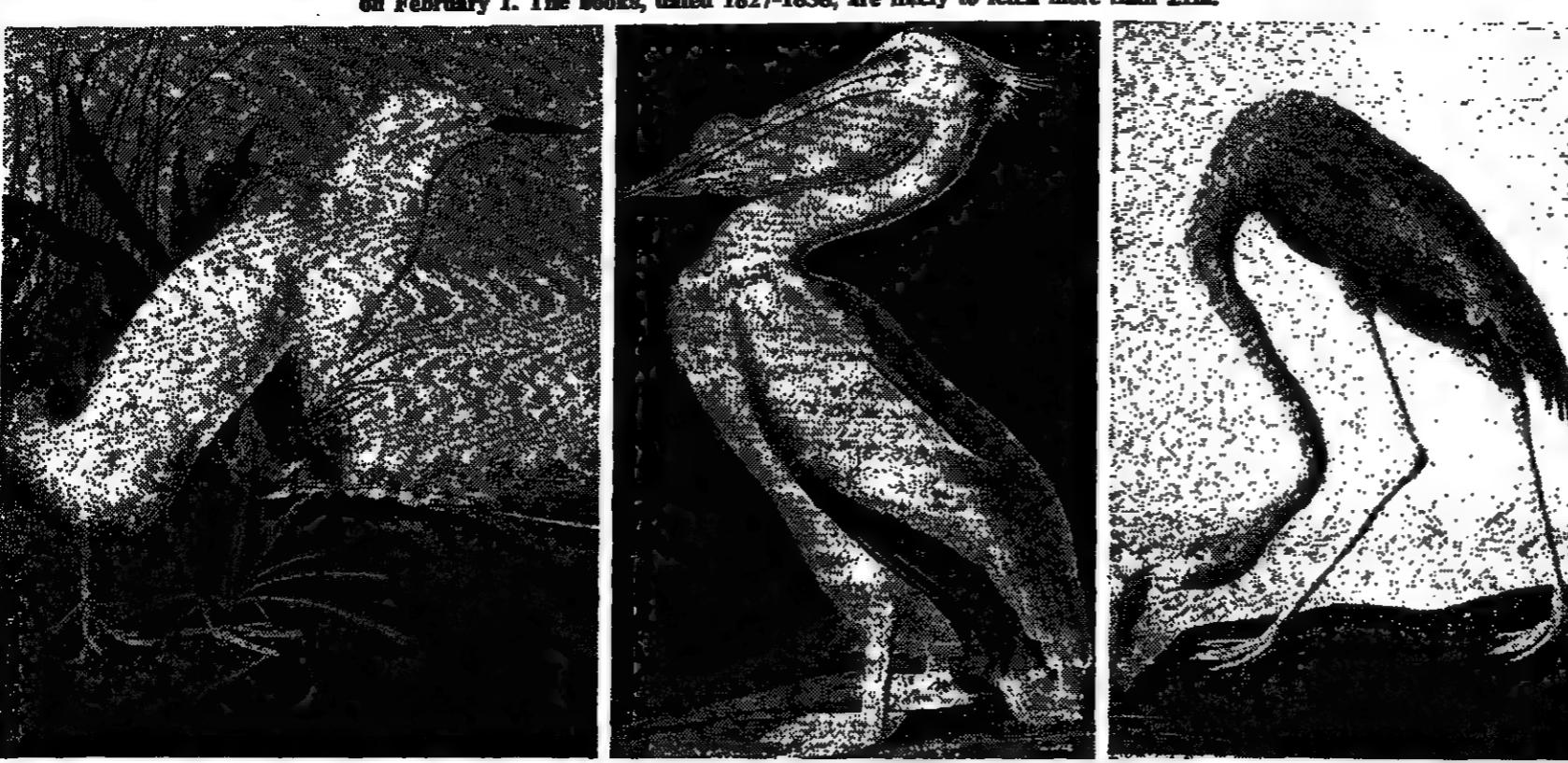
Mr Len Murray, the TUC general-secretary, and his wife will do an eight-hour shift today, serving tea and food and cleaning up at the Crisis at Christmas warehouse in Vauxhall, London, which provides food and accommodation for the homeless.

Among other visitors have been the labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, and the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Ronald Bowby, with their wives. The Christmas event started on December 23 and hundreds of homeless people have gone to the warehouse. On Christmas Day more than 1,000 enjoyed a traditional dinner. The warehouse is open until tomorrow.

Audubon's birds set to lay a golden egg



A selection of hand coloured aquatint plates from John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, the four volumes of which are to be auctioned by Sotheby's on February 1. The books, dated 1827-1838, are likely to fetch more than £1m.



The plates show: (top) trumpeter swan and Roseate spoonbill; (bottom) snowy heron, American white pelican, and American flamingo.

Chess tournament goes ahead without Russians

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

Despite the Soviet Chess Federation's failure to send any players, the fifty-ninth Hastings International Premier Chess Tournament which opens at the White Rock Pavilion today, looks stronger than ever; it includes nine international grandmasters, four international masters, and one FIDE master.

There are also two British international masters taking part: Mark Hebden and Nigel Short, as well as the FIDE master Andrew Martin who qualified for the premier by winning the Challengers section last year. The fourth international master taking part is Ivanov of Canada.

Oddly enough, the replacements necessary because of the last-minute Russian defection have strengthened the Elo rating of the tournament, so that much fine chess can be expected during the next few weeks.

There are two international grandmasters from the United States: Alpert and Gurevitch, and an American international master, Kudrin, who has an Elo rating higher than that of most grandmasters.

Much interest centres on Nigel Short, aged 18, since it is he who will gain the third grandmaster norm and so become the world's youngest grandmaster.

Mr David Kay, of Penrith, said: "We believe there is far more involved in high altitude mountaineering than this one question of lung capacity that the foundation through Mr Michael Ward, is concentrating on. There is the whole issue of motivation and commitment to success that is just as important

Cumbrian climbers press on with attempt at Everest

By Ronald Farrow

The eight members of the Cumbrian Mount Everest expedition are determined to press ahead with their plans to attempt the West Ridge of the mountain from China next year, without support from the Mount Everest Foundation.

If the last two are in form they should be strong candidates for the leading places.

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Mr David Kay, of Penrith, said: "We believe there is far more involved in high altitude mountaineering than this one question of lung capacity that the foundation through Mr Michael Ward, is concentrating on. There is the whole issue of motivation and commitment to success that is just as important

to climbing the West Ridge of Everest as they are on a Lake District outcrop.

"The decision whether an attempt has become too dangerous must be left to the individual climber on the mountain, not to a committee sitting in London."

The climbers will be submitting to texts by their own doctor which they hope will provide material that will eventually be of use to athletes proposing to compete at high altitudes.

The expedition, led by Mr Pat Gonson, of Ulverston, is costing the climbers more than £40,000 each. "Some have taken out second mortgages and others have cashed life insurance policies. But funds from American sources and a grant from ICI have helped to ease the pressure", Mr Kay said.

The party leaves for Peking in March.

The Mount Everest Foundation has no power to prevent a climbing expedition from attempting any objective but its approval is invaluable in securing sponsorship. Although the Cumbrian climbers have not been told officially that their application for approval has been rejected, the foundation's new guidelines on the dangers to small expeditions attempting high-altitude objectives without supplementary oxygen would exclude their expedition.

The Cumbrian team is one of smallest in size ever to attempt Everest. A smaller attempt led by Mr Chris Bonington in 1982 ended with the disappearance of Mr Peter Boardman and Mr Joe Tasker, high on the East North-east ridge.

OBITUARY

MISS VIOLET CARSON

Grand Old Lady of 'Coronation Street'



Miss Violet Carson, OBE, the actress, pianist and singer and, through her playing of the brusque, cross-grained Ena Sharples in the long-running serial *Coronation Street*, one of the best-known faces in television, died on December 26 in Blackpool. She was 85.

She played the character for over 2,000 performances and was last seen in the part which she made very much her own in February, 1980. She was made OBE in 1965, and was an honorary MA of Manchester University. In 1960 the writer Tony Warren engaged in casting the new serial remembered Miss Carson as a "no nonsense" actress he had met professionally when he was 12 and asked her to audition for the part of Ena. "Why?", said Miss Carson. "She's a back-street bitch" and the legend was born.

She is a television actress and actresses who seem to disappear almost completely into the roles they play. Violet Carson meant unjustly less to millions of television viewers than the formidable, aggressive Ena Sharples of *Coronation Street*. The hair tightly screwed into a bunnet or obtrusive curlers, the admirable punctuation with which she responded to the licensing laws, her excoriating tongue, her inability to keep her nose out of other people's business, her readiness to offer advice disguised as flagrant aggression or to offer flagrant verbal aggression without the excuse of advice, these were Ena Sharples, the reality.

In 1935 she joined the BBC in Manchester and became known as a pianist, as a singer of everything from popular ballads to operatic arias, and as "Auntie Vi" on the then North Region's *Children's Hour*.

In 1946 she joined Wilfred Pickles' quiz show, *Have a Go!* as pianist, became one of the interviewers and an occasional panelist in *Women's Hour* and eventually an effective character actress in radio plays; it was as an actress that she reached television in the 1950s.

The birth of *Coronation Street* – one of Granada Television's most powerful inspirations – in 1960 introduced Violet Carson to her alter ego Ena Sharples and made her a star whose skill responded without strain as the serial developed. She was highly convincing as the unredeemed dragon embodying the south-country myth of the aggressively rude northerner who confuses gentleness and courtesy for hypocrisy and cowardice. Within the limits of Ena Sharples, Miss Carson created a characterization which could never be faulted.

Television has, perhaps, tended to overshadow the pleasures of what used to be called "the wireless" which nourished many older readers. It is sometimes forgotten how versatile were the performers who had more than one string to their bows; for example Violet, who was acting character parts long before television had become universal, on one occasion, called *Violet's Day Out*, played a piano concerto with the BBC Northern Orchestra; sang a piece from Bizet's *Carmen*; accompanied herself in a classical aria and rounded the whole performance off with some rollicking choruses from old-time music-hall.

She once said, a trifle sadly, "I don't want to be Sharples – that old bag – all my life. I want people to remember I'm Violet Carson."

This, of course, was anything but fair to a very talented entertainer-pianist, actress and singer. Violet Carson was born in Manchester, the daughter of a Scottish miller, in a street which might, we are told, stand as a model for the later *Coronation Street* itself. Her parents were musical and saw to it that she played the piano – her sister took up the violin – to such effect that at the age of 15 she became pianist with the orchestra of a Manchester cinema.

Married in 1926, she was widowed two years later and returned to the piano, playing in cinemas and at small concerts and social evenings to earn her living.

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HERBERT van THAL

Herbert van Thal, man of letters, publisher, editor, anthologist and writer, died on December 23 at the age of 79.

Herbert Maurice van Thal was born in London in 1904, and educated at St Paul's School. His whole life was dedicated, in one form or another, to books; and the justest epitaph for him is certainly that he was one of the last keepers of standards in the popular field in which he made his living.

He was very well read, especially in Victorian literature. Lunch at his guest at the Reform Club with him was invariably, for a fellow author, a treat: old-fashioned courtesy, helpful advice, and good conversation about books.

Van Thal had been a literary agent. For some time after the Second World War he managed his own publishing company, Home & Van Thal. In more recent years he was best known as an editor, particularly of the *Pan Horror Stories* series, in which hundreds of thousands of readers received the benefit of his legendary wide reading and his refusal to select pulp fiction

whenever there was better available.

He edited the Doughty Library for the publisher Anthony Blond in the 1960s; this reprinted readable Victorian classics, and, in particular, it made Wilkie Collins' novel *No Name* available to a new generation of readers.

When that project ceased, van Thal invited the editor of a similar series under the auspices of a different publisher to lunch in order hand over to him the list of books he would have added to his own series, and to talk about 19th century novels. Such was the man's generosity and love of books.

He was also editor of Cassell's First Novel Library.

His own books included *The Tops of the Mulberry Trees* (1971), *Bellow: A Biographical Anthology* (1973), *Lander: A Biographical Anthology* (1973), and *The Music Lover's Companion* (1971).

Herbert van Thal was married to the former Phyllis May Bayley. He was one of the last genuine "bookmen", and as such, and for his geniality, modesty and wide knowledge, he will be sadly missed.

PROF. J. van LOHUIZEN de LEEUW

A correspondent writes:

Friends in many countries will be saddened to learn of the sudden death of Professor Johanna (Joan) Engelberta van Loohuizen de Leeuw at the age of 64. She was one of the leading European historians of Indian and Southeast Asian art.

Johanna van Loohuizen was an indefatigable traveller and worker. Her interests and researches led her to all the countries of South Asia and to many of Southeast Asia. During 1983 she made no less than three short excursions to Gilgit, Ladakh and Indonesia. She took on a tremendous burden of teaching and many undergraduate and research students have reason to be grateful to her. She gave unstinting help and advice to students and colleagues alike.

She had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the art history of South and Southeast Asia; her judgment and authority on works of art of all periods were extraordinary. She was well known as a lecturer throughout Europe and from 1954-61 was a visiting lecturer at St Edmund's House.

Two of her further contributions deserve special notice. When a meeting was called in Cambridge in 1970 to establish a biennial conference of South Asian Archaeologists in Western Europe it was natural that she should have played a leading role, a role which she subsequently maintained by agreeing to act as permanent secretary for the conference.

In 1978 she became one of the founding trustees of the Ancient India and Iran Trust, and she planned to return to Cambridge after her retirement in 1984 so as to take a more active part in promoting the trust.

Her death robs the world of an unrivalled scholar, and those who knew her of a dear and loyal friend.

Science report

Rubbish tips become a gull's delight

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The link between the reorganization of local councils almost 10 years ago and the amount of damage since done to aircraft by "birdstrike" is not obvious. But research by government scientists into the habits of seagulls has shown that exists.

It concerns rubbish dumps, which provide happy hunting grounds for the birds. The scientists, who work at the Worlestone laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, have given a graphic description of an existence which is as worrying for airlines as it is agreeable for the birds.

"Gulls spent much of the day at loafing sites, usually in one large flock, resting, preening and bathing where water was available. Loafing sites generally commanded a good all-round view." Some large inland council dumps are now visited by thousands of happy birds, which may have travelled thousands of miles to feast on the heaps of refuse.

But seagulls are also responsible for 42 per cent of the British cases of "birdstrike", in which a bird can be drawn into the engine of an airliner. Human lives have sometimes been lost in the ensuing accidents.

by such as playing fields and sewage works. The scientists found that the birds were not easily dislodged from the "superabundance of food" that awaited them on the tips. "Gulls often fed very close to the working bulldozers as it levelled and compacted refuse."

The gulls, which were once hardly seen in inland, now pose a significant hazard in a country such as Britain where the Government expects demand for air travel to grow. But the birds are consistent in their habits. They follow the same routes to their rubbish dumps year after year, and they may fly more than 20 miles across Britain from roost to feeding site.

It is therefore, possible to calculate a new rubbish dump to calculate the likely routes and numbers of the gulls that will be attracted to it. In areas near airports, therefore, the habits of gulls must be considered when councils make plans for establishing rubbish tips.

The Journal of Applied Ecology, December, 1983 (Blackwell Scientific Publications, Osney Mead, Oxford; annual subscription £38.50).

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THE ARTS

It was a year in which the Arts Council finally decided it had to reach its fortieth birthday in 1985 with a degree of dignity.

Until 1983 the old orthodoxy provided public subsidy of the arts should increase annually; cash should be ready to respond to new developments, centres of excellence would spread across the nation while the integrity of the fringe was preserved. In essence the Council was the primarily passive purveyor of the old welfare benevolence.

But for years the cash squeeze had been intensified. Money had stopped increasing, although the entire strategy of the Council dating back to the first chairmanship of Keynes was based on growth. Vast investments in bricks and mortar had to be serviced, but at the same time the continuous clamour on behalf of new projects had somehow to be damped down.

It was primarily an organizational problem which could not be solved simply by resorting to campaigns for more cash. Such campaigns were inevitably weakened by the spectacle of the effects of public spending cuts elsewhere — opera and ballet have

always had trouble opposing their claims to those of the medical profession for kidney machines. Yet still the left demanded Tory blood: the arts were socially desirable activities which a wicked Government was trying to crush. The subtle changes which took place in the relationship between the Government and the Council in 1983 were once again reduced to rows about more or less cash.

What the Left should have understood, and the Council now finally seems to have taken on board is that the Government does not want to cut money to the arts. Its mood has changed from indifference to mild enthusiasm. Efforts are being made to compile real statistics to show what really goes on. Total turnover figures for the arts and all

peripheral industries have been put as high as £3-24,000.

The initial inspiration for this change was the Select Committee Report published in 1982. The seriousness with which this took the arts as an industry and badge of national prestige began to turn the tide. It became clear that, far from simply being another unacceptable drain on the public purse, the arts had some splendid, Tory virtues.

They stimulated all kinds of markets and they offered a tangible "weight" to our national image.

Now comes the Select Committee's answer: Clive Priestley with his scrutiny of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company. This was the Select Committee's remuneration, made flesh, right down to the cost of underskirts at Covent Garden. With

almost unseemly relish the virtues of arts were endorsed and with embarrasing enthusiasm the two companies were given more or less claim financial bills of health.

The Arts Council was all but speechless, not least because both reports had edged towards demanding radical changes in its own position. Both thought it was too centralized and both suggested it should have more overall control over the flow of funds to the national companies. When the Government's reorganization proposals for the local authorities came along, requiring major changes in the funding structures of dozens of companies, the penny finally dropped. The Council had to go with the flow or risk a fight that it could not win. A new orthodoxy had to be adopted.

This began with the consultative programme dreamt up at Ilkley and involving all the Council's annual clients. The next phase was the negotiation of the total grant for 1984-85, which was announced last week. The key to this was to exploit the Priestley enthusiasm by raising extra money for the ROH and the RSC and the regional opera companies. And there was too the small overall increase.

Several things have not yet been spelled out. First the ROH and the RSC will be expected to implement the kind of Priestley-recommended economies during 1984-85. Thus in 1985-86 they will probably receive no further increase as the economies will be expected to account for inflation. Also less overall cash will be available to the rest of the clients

because the Council will be holding a larger reserve than usual — perhaps £1m as opposed to £250,000.

And this is where the grand strategy comes into effect. By March, just before the beginning of the new financial year, the results of the Ilkley consultation will be known. A policy will be evolved which will help some companies more than others and there will always be some fondering on financial rocks. Those favoured in the policy will be rescued by the larger reserve fund, those not will have to sink or swim and which from now on will also mean fewer staff. Overall the cost of abandoning the faith of the first 40 years will be high; the Council should console itself with the thought that the cost of not doing so would be higher.

result of Government moves to draw local authorities into funding those companies left out of the "national importance" list in the plans to disband the top tier councils. With luck these moves will come out in March 1984, providing Lord Gowrie and the Council with a large and very positive package of innovations.

Blood will be split fairly steadily over the next two years. There will be insolvencies next year and many howls of protest in 1985.

Yet in the long term the restructuring may result in more money and more companies. Certainly, if the decentralization side works, it will lead to more sustained pressure for greater artistic equality across the regions.

Meanwhile the Arts Council will be able to get on with its rather more dignified role of grand strategist, lobbyist and philosopher to the world of established culture. It should move out of the bear-pit into rather more refined surrounds. Overall the cost of abandoning the faith of the first 40 years will be high; the Council should console itself with the thought that the cost of not doing so would be higher.

Galleries in Los Angeles

Collectors in exciting context

There has been talk of the need for a museum of modern art in Los Angeles for almost as long as there has been of the need for a definitive Hollywood museum. At present it seems that the museum of modern art will make it first, at any rate, the Temporary Contemporary has opened in the Little Tokyo district just east of Downtown and the Music Centre — a slum area which is in the midst of a spectacular facelift and articulation, with new SoHo/Wapping style loft galleries appearing every week.

The Temporary Contemporary has been surrounded by a blaze of publicity which leaves the locals eager to visit and desperately vague about exactly where it is: finally I found a policeman who knew because it is housed in what used to be the major downtown police garage. The space is spectacular: high and open, covered by a great single-span ceiling supported here and there with diagonal struts which have been cunningly made into quasi-sculptural features, and still retaining mysteriously mouldering pulleys and other possibly movable parts which are not always easy to distinguish from the sculptures of Kienholz, Stella or Beuys strategically placed beneath. It is planned that this shall be the home of MOCA (it seems appropriate that conversationally MOMA in New York is a looming maternal presence, while MOCA in Los Angeles sounds like a flavour of ice cream) for two years, until its permanent home, designed by Arata Isozaki for nearby Bunker Hill, is ready.

For outsiders the First Show at MOCA (until February 19) is likely to be rather less exciting than the context in which it is placed. The emphasis is for once primarily on the collector: eight collections have been drawn upon, all formed between 1940 and 1980, and each representing a different stratum of taste. Some, like the Schreiber collection, are firmly based on artists who emerged as modern classics during the 1950s — Pollock, Stael, Giacometti and so on — while others bring the story right up to date, with the Panza di Blumi collection strong on the conceptual and minimal, and the Seatchis showing primarily from their holding of Transavanguardia/Zeitgeist artists like Chia, Kiefer, Clemente and Schnabel. The result is that we are given a quick prospectus of what has been going on in the arts internationally for the last four decades as well as an intriguing sidelight on the ways that collecting taste develops. If the Temporary Contemporary can keep up this standard it may move into its permanent



German Expressionist eye-opener *Youth Rising* from the *Debut* by Milt Steiger

home, it should be guaranteed knowledgeable and enthusiastic support from 1986 on.

Meanwhile, though there seems to be no reason why any kind of competitive situation should exist, the County Museum has been put on its mettle, and has come up with a really epoch-making show: the first major exhibition anywhere in the world devoted exclusively to German Expressionist Sculpture (until January 22). Coming in the wake of a number of ambitious shows devoted to Expressionist painting and to individual painters of the movement, this show is bound to seem, at first blush, like a minor annex, a footnote. It may be interesting to read if you can be bothered to turn to the back of the book. But that would be radically to underestimate it.

We probably know that many of the Expressionists interested themselves in more than one art-form, so it is no great surprise to encounter sculptures by artists we know best in other media, though it may well be surprising to find how confident and expressive of, say, Nolde, Kollwitz or Kirchner, or even that Schmidt-Rottluff emerges as an infinitely more interesting

John Russell Taylor

Television

Classical magic

rhythms of the Edwardian music-hall.

The voices for Mole, Rat, Badger and Toad — Richard Briers, Ian Carmichael, Michael Hordern and David Jason respectively — were well chosen. Miss Sisson was fairly faithful to the original; but whereas that left us with "an altered Toad", cautioned by his experiences into a less flamboyant lifestyle, this version found him incorrigible. It left him at the end with a new obsession, aeroplanes, a legitimate twist perhaps but not quite necessary. Apart from that slight quibble, full marks to Thame and the producers, Brian Cosgrove and Mark Hall.

Coming as it did three days

after *The Comedy of Errors*, it invited comparison and fell further by it. The two gentlemen, John Hudson as Valentine and Tyler Butterworth as Prentus, had much earnestness, which gleamed rather obstructively from the off-popped eyes of the former, but little conviction. The girls, Tessa Peake-Jones as the constant Julia and Joanne Pearce as Silvia, did better, inclining one to reflect that matronity may indeed come earlier to the female of the species.

Against the acting and invention of *Errors*, this production paled. Even its sets indicated a lack of investment and the forest looked more like a garlanded waterworks than a refuge for outlaws. Not a good night for poor William.

Dennis Hackett

Thames's musical version of Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*, adapted by Rosemary Anne Sisson and imaginatively animated by Cosgrove Hall Productions, proved once again last night that magic can be safely sought in the classics which, with a little invention — and there was much of that here — can be rewardingly refurbished.

Cosgrove Hall have deservedly won awards for their previous animations and a series of 13 20-minute episodes on *Willows* is in preparation. The models here were excellent and the animation was superb. The composers, Keith Hopwood, former lead guitarist for Herman's Hermits, and Malcolm Rowe, scored it well, seeking appropriate inspiration in the English pastoral themes of Vaughan Williams and, for Toad, in the cheekily jaunty

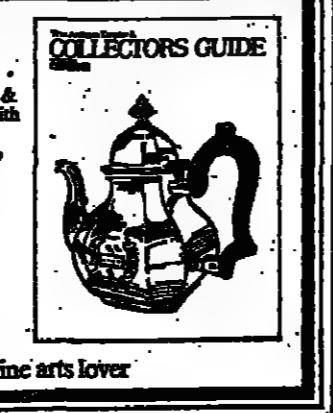
January issue...out now



The January issue of The Antique Dealer & Collectors Guide sets the tone for 1984 with its customary variety of articles for the informed collector, from tea table silver to Lalique car mascots, plus a directory of Britain's specialist antique collectors' societies.

Also in this issue: Buying fine furniture. The history of Rosen furniture. Victorian sewing cases.

The Antique Dealer & COLLECTORS GUIDE



CATE
COLLECTOR'S GUIDE
THE ANTIQUE DEALER & COLLECTORS GUIDE
A STORE IS DOWN.
GATE BLOOMSBURY
• THE LEOPARD •
• ZELIG •
CATE MAY FAIR
ZELIG •

Theatre

Hi-de-Hi!

Victoria Palace

It is Ugly Bug Ball Night at Maplin's (anything to amuse the happy campers); never-quite-made-it ballroom dancing champions Barry and Yvonne Stuart-Hargreaves (Barry Howard and Marie Lorraine) wear frosty smiles as Lord Stick-Insect and Lady Praying Mantis; the twin play caterpillars, Mr Ben Wariss (taking over Uncle Benjamin) staggers on as a spider, and dotty little Peggy (Su Pollard) temporarily abandons her Omo and Windolene to star as the front legs of a centipede. I cannot remember what started it all, or the pass-the-jerry competition that sends Miss Pollard off in an ambulance with a pot wedged over her curly brows just above the spectacles, but it hardly matters. You know you are among friends.

At its best, Jimmy Perry's and David Croft's writing in the television series has been so good that I hoped they would devise a proper full-length comedy weaving all these great characters together. Not so; maybe next Christmas? This show does: wander from one production number to the next with less plot than you would get in a usual half-hour episode, but you seldom notice. The poinsettias and microphones clustering round the Victoria Palace proscenium, not to

mention Bert Swanley and the Debonaires bouncing through 1959 hits, bring holiday-camp showtime at Crimpton-on-Sea to life too horribly to allow any but the briefest glimpses of backstage intrigue.

As the long-suffering Jeffrey Fairbrother, Simon Cadell first appears as a latter-day Cambridge archaeology professor nimbly recalling the mad impulse that briefly led him to launch himself as an enterprising manager, among this motley crew. Introduced in quick succession to Miss Pollard's buckets and the throbbing heart of Gladys' Pugh (Ruth Madoc), he brings a creative imagination to bingo-calling ("On its own, 41!") but comes into his own presently as Noel Coward singing "Mad Dogs and Englishmen".

That sequence, with all the principals doing yesterday star impersonations, hardly comes off. But in no time the fledgling comic (Jeffrey Holland), discarding earlier attire as a giant sauce bottle or a missionary, in a cauldron, reappears as a fairy godmother granting a vision of former jockey Felix Bowness winning the Derby, tubby quiffed MC Paul Shane doing his Elvis bit, and the Stuart-Hargreaves (underused in this show) at the Albert Hall, taking her 862 yards of nylon net and his undone flybuttons triumphantly in their stride.

Anthony Masters

does not add up to much.

London missed its chance with *Just a Kick in the Grass*, finally staged at Southampton: after Bromley was foiled at the eleventh hour. And with *Two Planks and a Passion*, of some exceptional work including the Vanessa Redgrave *Lady from the Sea*, *The Duchess of Malfi* and *The Family Reunion*. Recent visits to the Royal Exchange suggest that it is going through a poor patch just now.

But London should have seen that *Wild Duck* — which could only have been staged in the round — and the Round House's demise, even if some sort of resurrection is impending, also cuts off budding connexions with other major theatres like the Glasgow Citizens' (not, however, at their best when they came) and Alan Ayckbourn's company from Scarborough.

Even more important, those escaping big fish I mentioned earlier include a valuable number of large-scale new plays. The combined capability of the brave Royal Court, a few other theatres like the Half Moon and Greenwich, and the National and RSC for staging ambitious large-cast premieres

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**THE TIMES 1000
1983/84**
The World's Top Companies
Full statistical details and addresses: UK,
Europe, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia,
Canada, Singapore, etc.
From bookshops at £17.50 or £19.00 (inc.
postage & packing) from
Times Books Ltd, 16 Golden Square,
London, W1.

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Dec 19. Dealings End, Dec 29. 5 Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

WALL STREET
PRICES & COMMENT
THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Stock exchange Stock	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross divid yield	Capitalization Company																
BRITISH FUNDS																				
BHFTS	114.00	-	1.00	AAI	112.00	-	0.87	AAC	112.00	-	0.87	AAE	112.00	-	0.87	AAF	112.00	-	0.87	AAH
Exch 114.00	108.4	+1.0	1.00	AAI	112.00	-	0.87	AAE	112.00	-	0.87	AAF	112.00	-	0.87	AAH	112.00	-	0.87	AAJ
Exch 148.00	108.4	+1.0	1.00	AAI	112.00	-	0.87	AAE	112.00	-	0.87	AAF	112.00	-	0.87	AAH	112.00	-	0.87	AAK
Exch 198.00	97.0	+1.0	0.98	AAI	112.00	-	0.87	AAE	112.00	-	0.87	AAF	112.00	-	0.87	AAH	112.00	-	0.87	AAJ
Exch 200.00	101.0	+1.0	1.00	AAI	112.00	-	0.87	AAE	112.00	-	0.87	AAF	112.00	-	0.87	AAH	112.00	-	0.87	AAK
Treas 156.00	102.0	+1.0	1.00	AAI	112.00	-	0.87	AAE	112.00	-	0.87	AAF	112.00	-	0.87	AAH	112.00	-	0.87	AAJ
Treas 156.00	102.0	+1.0	1.00	AAI	112.00	-	0.87	AAE	112.00	-	0.87	AAF	112.00	-	0.87	AAH	112.00	-	0.87	AAK
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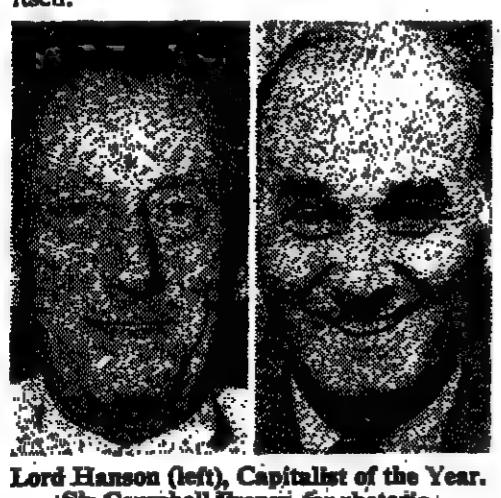
THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

1983 Awards for Business and Related Arts

Few would argue that outstanding performance or meritorious achievement, in any walk of life, should go unrecognized. Sportspersons, entertainers, civil servants, contributors to party funds - all are liberally honoured; but unless they come into one or more of these categories, bankers and businessmen, financiers and men who move markets, tend to be overlooked. Yet who can say their contributions to our lives is less worthy than feats on the running track or stunning parts in costly TV advertisements? *The Times* Awards for Achievement in Business and the Related Arts are designed to fill a gap, indeed several gaps, including the gap between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve. Our panel of judges is made up of two distinguished people, Dame Rosemary Unsworth and Lord Jonathan Davis, and myself.

The principal award, that for Supreme Achievement, was not too difficult. The judges decided quite quickly that the choice lay between Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, who became Governor of the Bank of England on July 1st, and Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange. The panel finally came down in favour of Sir Nicholas, as we felt that with the Prime Minister sponsoring him, Mr Leigh-Pemberton probably had less of a struggle. Therefore, for plucking the Stock Exchange out of the fire of the Restrictive Practices Act, the Supreme Award went to Sir Nicholas.

The panel also thought it right that a Special Mention should go to the Minister responsible at the time for the fire, Mr Cecil Parkinson, who has already been proved a better prophet of the shape of things to come than anyone in the City itself.



Robin Leigh-Pemberton (left), runner-up to Supreme Achiever Sir Nicholas Goodison.

Lord Hanson (left), Capitalist of the Year. Sir Campbell Fraser, for rhetoric.

The Capitalist of the Year might easily have been Mr Jeffrey Sterling, who finally rehabilitated Town & City; with celebratory flourish renamed it Sterling Guarantee Trust; was special adviser to three Cabinet ministers (Mr Partick Jenkins, Mr Cecil Parkinson and Mr Norman Tebbit, whose ear he still has); and was made chairman of P&O in order to save it from Trafalgar House and Cunard. Both he and Mr Nigel Brookes (Trafalgar House) are certain to be strong contenders for the 1984 award, but this year the panel was unanimous: Lord Hanson is Capitalist of the Year. Hanson Trust's £260m takeover of the UDS stores group was an outstanding deal, in any year. The sale for £150m of UDS's unwanted businesses almost covers the £170m bid Hanson has made for London Brick.

The Poisoned Chalice went to the Midland Bank, whose expensive acquisition of the Crocker Bank in California proved more costly than anyone had feared when it was revealed in December that Crocker had moved into the red. The omen were not propitious when earlier in the year the (unrelated) First National Bank of Midland, a 93-year-old Texas bank, became the second largest failure in American banking history. The panel was convinced, however, that the Poisoned Chalice would not remain on the Midland's sideboard for more than a year. Competition for the minor awards was fierce and the panel had great difficulty in selecting from several outstanding entries in each category. After hours of discussion and argument, the judges agreed.

Rhetorician of the Year: Sir Campbell Fraser, president of the Confederation of British Industry, whose own company, Dunlop, signally failed to set an example to the rest of industry and, at year end, was struggling even to stay British.

The Golden Handshake: This award naturally attracted a strong entry, with such outstanding claimants as Mr William Fieldhouse (Carrington-Vielly) and Mr Jack Gill, whose £750,000 from Lord Grade's old Associated Communications Corporation, still qualified him for this year's award as the final sum is not yet settled. The winner however, by a neck, is Sir John Mayhew-Sanders, who received £180,000 but wanted more when he resigned from John Brown - on the very day this once famous engineering company confirmed that it has made losses totalling £26.7m.

The Most Lamented Departure of the Year is Lord Cockfield's from the Department of Trade where his consistently inconsistent rulings on takeovers and mergers are sadly missed. Runner up is Sir Peter Green, whose spell as chairman of Lloyd's gave "names", the Bank of England, the Inland Revenue and the public at large, their first real insight into the profitable workings of the world's best known insurance market.

Scientist of the Year: Mr Keith Hunt, the portly Warwick commodity broker who disappeared suddenly in April leaving investors who backed his sophisticated scientific analysis of commodity markets wondering if they had lost £8m.

Klop of the Year: The Telejector pub video deal, which was intended to provide



Sir Denis Mountain (left) takes two honours. Science award for Keith Hunt.



Sir Denis Mountain (left) takes two honours. Science award for Keith Hunt.

The Misplaced Optimism Award: goes to Mr George Helsby, chairman of Burnett & Hallamshire, who predicted "further substantial growth" in his chairman's statement in June. Three months later, Mr Helsby retired through ill health. The company's interim profits were halved and the share price dropped from a peak of 435p this year to 135p.

The Miracle Award goes to Mr Robert Maxwell for taking Oxford United into the Quarter finals of the Milk Cup and raising the British Printing Corporation, now BPCC, from the dead.

The judges were left with just two more awards. The Saying of the Year, especially as this award was sponsored by the Fleet Street branch of the Society of Builders (SOB) finally went to Lord Matthews for: "My views on the importance of honouring agreements are well known."

The Non-Event of the Year resulted in a triple tie: The panel found it impossible to distinguish between the International Banking Crisis, the collapse of Opec and a takeover bid for either Tricentrol or Burmail.

The judges' decisions are final and they regret they cannot enter into correspondence on the awards.

As Olivetti's chairman, Sig-

Takeover Panel working on simplified rulebook

By Andrew Cornelius

Mr John Hignett, outgoing director general of the City Takeover Panel, says it is planning to simplify its rulebook next year. In an interview with *The Times* Mr Hignett said that work has started on simplifying the 81-page rulebook.

He said that a reworked rulebook, setting out the City's code on takeovers and mergers, will contain an easy-to-understand index and explanatory paragraphs at the beginning of the section which deals with the 41 rules.

Mr Hignett, who returns to Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, as managing director of the corporate finance department after 2½ years with the panel, also promised that there will be some amplification in the panel's next annual report of its view on consortium bidding. This follows the controversy

over the bid by Mr Michael Ashcroft, chairman of Hawley Group, for Cope Allianz, the packaging and leisure company. The panel allowed Mr Ashcroft to proceed with a tender offer for Cope to give him 29 per cent of the shares even though he had previously acted in concert with Mr David Wickins, chairman of British Car Auctions, who held 13 per cent of Cope's shares.

Critics feared that Mr Ashcroft would effectively control 42 per cent of Cope if the tender offer succeeded despite a panel assurance that no concert party existed.

Mr Hignett said that the panel took the view that each allegation that a concert party existed should be investigated separately. He said that it would be wrong for the panel to set an arbitrary time limit during which a concert party is

assumed to exist after a bid has lapsed.

He said that the concert party might break up the next day, or the next year. But the onus must be on members of the consortium to prove that it no longer exists.

Mr Hignett said that his successor, Mr Timothy Barker, aged 43, a senior member of the corporate finance team at Kleinwort Benson, had a challenging year ahead. Next year Mr Hignett predicts that there will be more American-style arbitraging in bid situations.

Mr Barker will continue the work which Mr Hignett began in combining the roles of director general of the Takeover Panel and of the new Council for the Securities Industry, which is intended to become the

ultimate watchdog of City affairs.

Early next year the council must act on the findings of the Gower Report on investor protection. Negotiations with the Department of Trade and Industry over the implementation of EEC directives on Stock Exchange affairs are also at an advanced stage.

● The reelection of Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone as Japan's Prime Minister followed by the quick formation of a new government pushed share prices on the Tokyo stock market to a record high for the second day running yesterday, according to dealers in Tokyo. The market added 37.3 points to reach a record close of 9,883.94 after rising 141.72 the previous day. At one point in early trading the average stood even higher, at 9,901.45.

Allianz and BAT to talk

Talks are expected to begin today between Allianz Versicherungen of West Germany and BAT Industries in a last-ditch attempt to end the deadlock over their competing 675p a share takeover bids for Eagle Star, Britain's sixth largest insurer.

There has been nothing to date to indicate that the two sides will be able to reach an accord, and unless another party enters the battle for control this week, they will be forced by the City Takeover Panel to fight it out in a last-minute auction on Friday, December 30.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Friday's close and change on week:

FT Index: 775.0

FT Gilts: 83.15

FT All Share: 469.2

Bargains: not available

Datastream U.S. Movers Index: 95.70

New York: Dow Jones Average: 1250.1

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,584.17

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 857.0

Amsterdam: 157.8

Sydney: ASX Index: 742.2

Frankfurt: Darmstadt Bank Index: 1031.7

Brussels: Generali Index: 136.44

Paris: CAC Index: 153.8

Zurich: SKA General: 312.80 unchanged

CURRENCIES

Friday's close and change on week:

LONDON

Sterling: \$1.4330

Index: 82.5

DM: 3.9500

Fr: 12.0850

Yen: 335

Dollar: 130.3

DM: 2.7565

NEW YORK

Sterling: \$1.4345

Dollar: DM 2.7585

INTERNATIONAL

ECU: 20.571481

SDR: 0.728708

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:

Bank base rates: 9

Finance houses base rate: 8½%

Discount market loans: week fixed: 9

3 month interbank: 9½-10%

Euro-currency rates:

3 month dollar: 10½-10¾%

3 month DM: 6½-7½%

3 month Fr: 13½-13¾%

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):

am \$379.50 pm close \$379.75-380.50 (£285.50-286)

New York: \$380.30

Kruegerrand (per coin):

\$391.50-393 (£273.75-274.75)

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY: - Interim: Bermuda International Bond Fund, Energy Finance and General Trust (amended), London Private Health Group, LTD Group Finalis Note.

TOMORROW: - Interim: Dolar Photographic, Stewart Zigman Finalis Note.

FRIDAY: - Interim: Arbutus, Dolar Income Trust, Interim dividend. H. J. Bell Finalis Note.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank 9%

Barclays 9%

BCI 9%

Caib Savings 110½%

Consolidated Cds 9%

Continental Trust 9%

C. Hoare & Co 9%

Lloyd Bank 9%

Midland Bank 9%

Nat Westminster 9%

TSB 9%

Williams & Glyn's 9%

Montage Bank 9%

7 day certificates of deposit: £100,000 up to £250,000 9½% over 7½%

SHOE INDUSTRY INCREASES WORKFORCE BY 3%

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

would only extend protection where there is complementary legislation in a member country.

A private Member's Bill introduced by Mr Stephen Dorrell, Conservative MP for Loughborough, aims to extend the 1938 Act's protection to service marks which represents more than 90 per cent of Britain's traders, is carrying out a survey to see how far the service sector is at risk.

It is also pressing the Government to change legislation quickly to avoid anomalies under prospective EEC changes; and to strengthen administration of trade marks to tackle a backlog on existing trade marks.

The Trade Marks Act 1938 allows only for registration of names for goods. It means services, typically a shop name, can only invoke common law protection by taking to court anybody adopting the same or similar name. This can be disproportionately costly.

Because there is no registration of service marks it is difficult to check on their use by others.

EEC regulations on trademark protection, now planned,

will affect the cost of protection.

But the consortium argues that additional staff in the trade marks administration could be taken on without affecting spending ceilings. It says fees charged for registration could make staff expansion self-funding.

Full details of the British financial package will not be known until the GEC talks are complete but a framework has been almost completed by J. Henry Schroder Waggs, the company's merchant bank advisers.

Although Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department is expected to ensure the £1 billion buyer, will be covered by GEC's own previous best when it secured a £500m order for the Castle Peak B power station in neighbouring Hong Kong three years ago.

The plant, at Dava Bay, will cost a total of £3.1 billion, with the French group Framatome supplying two pressurized water reactors.

The order to GEC, as supplier of turbines and generators and prime contractor for the British part of the plant, could double GEC's own previous best when it secured a £500m order for the Castle Peak B power station in neighbouring Hong Kong three years ago.

The survey says that 600 jobs were created in September and there was an overall increase in jobs of 1,500 since last February.

Employees in British foot-

ware manufacturing now total 52,300. A fifth of whom are now working overtime.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28 1983
All four tree-toppers waver as England's festival of football attracts 1m of the faithful over two days

Bonnie Prince Charming adds a fairy-tale footnote to the old year

By Peter Ball

Christmas is no bad time for the belief that "everything comes to him who waits" to be proved true and 18 minutes from the end of his penultimate opportunity to do so in 1983 Charlie Nicholas scored the goal the Highbury faithful have been awaiting since August.

That it was a somewhat unsatisfactory affair, coming from the penalty spot after Blake had wrestled down Meade, made no difference to their appreciation of the event. Whether the goal, which earned Arsenal a point against Birmingham, will be equally rewarding for Don Howe, is another matter, for much of the preceding 71 minutes were dire enough to provoke the thought that Boxing Day's result would not be the first time Arsenal had seen a false dawn at Tottenham this season.

The swirling wind forbade severe criticism but it inhibited Birmingham, who had lost their previous six League games, considerably less than Arsenal, and it was only the wastefulness of Harford, who saw the two excellent chances go begging before he laid on Hopkins' goal, which prevented Birmingham bringing Arsenal down to earth with a nasty bump.

If the Highbury crowd were ecstatic at the sight of one goal from their favourite, Wolverhampton's dwindling band also received a seasonal gift, the club notching their first home win since April by beating Everton 3-0 with goals from Christie, Eves and Clarke. With Stoke idle, the win enabled Wolverhampton to cut the gap between them to five points, and they are now only eight points behind Birmingham in nineteenth position, a small enough deficit in these days of three points for a win to give them

something to look forward to in the New Year.

Unfortunately for Wolverhampton, only Watford of the teams above them failed to pick up at least one point, and Notts County and Leicester's interventions in the championship race should give them both considerable heart as they look a point apiece from Old Trafford and Anfield.

Possibly the Old Trafford crowd were kept down to an

Referee throws book at the wall

Nine Notts County players were booked yesterday by the Vizor referee, Derek Owen, in the 3-3 draw at Manchester United. The only two to escape were Harford and Fashanu and the County manager, Jimmy Sirrell, said: "The referee is the sole arbiter and, like it or not, we must abide by his decisions. If we don't we are in trouble and that is exactly what happened."

Leicester and Notts were booked in the first half and each United were awarded a suspension free kick and refused to retreat. Mr Owen booked the entire defensive wall of seven, comprising Goodwin, Worthington, Richards, Houghton, Christie and Caled-Hunt.

Average 41,544 - still the best by far on the day as gates fell by nearly 100,000 on the Boxing Day total although they comfortably exceeded one million over the two days - by memories of last year's disappointing holiday period.

If so, the fears of the missing thousands were realized as United threw away a 3-1 lead, two goals from Justin Fashanu in the last 10 minutes securing Notts County a share of the points. It would be wrong to make any reference to Christmas gifts, for United's defence

have been generous to a fault for much of the season, and their collective failings were again apparent, both Fashanu's goals coming from bad misses.

It could have been worse for United, for the Leicester goalkeeper Mark Wallington's penalty save from Souness two minutes from time prevented Liverpool increasing the gap at the top. Had it gone in it would have been a cruel ending for Leicester, who continued their tradition of making life difficult for Liverpool.

The visitors were two goals ahead with 20 minutes remaining. Smith and Banks stalling the Kop, but Lee pulled one back immediately after Banks' effort, and then Rush equalized with his twenty-first goal of the season seven minutes from time.

In the lower divisions the leading teams are also finding the holiday a testing time. Sheffield Wednesday, the second division leaders, fell to their second defeat in 24 hours, Middlesbrough inflicting the first home defeat of the season with goals by Sugrue and a penalty by Christie.

Newcastle fared little better, after their draw with Blackburn on Boxing Day, by failing to rampant Carlisle after leading 1-0. A penalty by Shoulder against his old club proved the turning point and goals by Coughlin and Craig in the last two minutes gave Carlisle a 3-1 victory in a game spoilt by a solitary hooligan attacking the Newcastle goalkeeper. Thomas, it took six policemen to restrain him.

Manchester City are enjoying the week rather more than their neighbours, an impressive performance at Huddersfield bringing them a 3-1 win and maximum points for the two days.

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Bad match for Botham

Ian Botham was booked by the referee, Gilbert Napthine, of Loughborough, for a late tackle on Steve Elliott of Preston North End, when Scunthorpe United lost 5-1 at home yesterday. A minute later Elliott, who scored three times, put Preston ahead.

Preston's second goal, scored by Elliott, was due to a mistake by Botham. He failed to control the ball, allowing Kelly a clear run and the chance to set up the position for Elliott. Houghton and Kelly scored the other Preston goals, and Carrick replied for Scunthorpe late on.

Botham was playing in his second League match in successive days. Scunthorpe lost 1-0 at Hull City on Monday. He has ignored the pleas of the Test and County Cricket Board not to risk injury before England's departure for their tour of New Zealand and Pakistan. The Party are due to leave Gatwick tomorrow.

Brazil's samba of angst

By Dennis Shaw

Aston Villa.....0

Tottenham Hotspur.....0

Twenty-four hours is, indeed, a long time in football, especially when five potential points evaporate. Two clubs with designs on UEFA Cup places found the post-Christmas rush a most unproductive exercise yesterday.

The teams caught each other on the rebound from Boxing Day defeats, and both dug their heels in so doggedly that there were few laughs on offer.

But a slow, error-ridden start led to a distinct acceleration of tempo, and a tinge of desperation. Ultimately, the outcome was a spectacle more entertaining than the absence of goals suggests.

Both managers could claim that they should have won, since scoring attempts at each end littered a frenetic second half. The reason neither side achieved a breakthrough was the song of double-edged.

Goalkeeping per excellence was the major factor in depriving the game of the goal or three it deserved, but finishing of the "Oh dear" variety could be blamed almost equally.

Clemence and Spink shared the

GRIMSBY TOWN were accused yesterday of making inadequate arrangements for a large home crowd. Police say that the restrained behaviour by the 16,000 supporters who went to Blundell Park for the Boxing Day game with the Second Division leaders Sheffield Wednesday presented serious trouble.

A Sheffield councillor, Clive

plaudits for saves that brought credit to their craft. In contrast, the troubled Brazil was left clutching the booby prize for twice putting in a barren first-half when a mistake by Ormsby and a slick Spink response left him isolated five yards out. He had the ball at his feet and the ball of Spink his only obstacle. "When I struck it, he came for me," he said.

Brazil let us off twice, missing the best chances of the game. Had Archibald or Falco had his second half opening they would have put it away. It was lucky for us," he added.

Clemence then clawed away superbly chipped shots by Wilf and Walters, while Spink levelled the account by saving from Roberts and Stevens.

Villa's most frustrating moment came when Whisker an obliquely angled shot into the net and celebrated prematurely, unaware of the linesman's flag, raised 15 yards back. He was in good company - the referee missed it too, but changed his decision from a goal to a free kick when the linesman stuck to his guns.

Brazil was exposed his dual

failure by his manager, Keith Burkinshaw. "He would normally have blown the first one in but he had the courage to try again. The second time he did everything right and I give all credit to Ormsby for clearing his shot off the line."

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Botham: booking after tackle

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CRICKET: ONE CAPTAIN MARCHES ON WHILE ANOTHER COMES TO AN UNCELEBRONIOUS HALT

Imran dour as a Boycott and fierce as a Richards

From Ian Brayshaw, Melbourne

Imran Khan, the Pakistan captain, at long last given his doctor's permission to take part in the series, wasted no time in putting his stamp on proceedings on the second day of the fourth Test match against Australia here yesterday.

Imran, who had manfully endured the agony of sitting on the sidelines while his colleagues struggled through the first two games before acquiring themselves better in the third, played one of the innings of his life in steering his team to a strong position.

His preparation for this had been a few knocks in the nets and a couple of short stays at the crease in his only game of the tour, against Tasmania at Hobart a week ago. But in the face of all these problems he produced a true captain's innings. He was at the crease for a few minutes short of four hours for his 83, but never once did his concentration waver.

He set out the tough periods with the application of a Boycott, then pounced on scoring opportunities with the ferocity of a Richards. Thanks to his dedication, Pakistan scored 470, a formidable first

innings on a wicket reputedly bad for batting late in a Test. Much to the joy of Imran's camp, Azeez, the young fast bowler, grabbed two Australian wickets before stumps. Azeez had Wessels smartly caught at the wicket by Wasim Bari when the score was 21; then, recalled to join him, Imran took charge to guide his partners through an early storm when the Australians threw everything at him and into calmer waters later in their lone stand.

Qadir dug deep to find extra reserves of conviction while displaying fine defensive mechanisms and occasional strokes of genius in crashing the ball away through the off side. His innings of 45 was a career-best performance in Tests and perhaps will give him the confidence to produce some of his best with the ball and at last make a real mark on this series.

The Australian bowlers found there was nothing to their liking in this pitch on the second day.

The slow bounce that had been evident in the opening phase of the game was gone. The little amount of spin that Matthews had found on Monday was no longer there and it was just a matter of chiselling away.

Lillee, as usual, gave freely of his body and soul and was perhaps the best of the Australian bowlers. He produced a ball good enough to dislodge Imran. Lillee's immense skills were on display when he landed a leg-cutter outside off stump. Imran edged and, for the ninth-third time in Tests, the scorer wrote "caught Marsh, Bowled Lillee".

Maguire, in his first Test appearance, impressed as a likely workhorse, plugging away at fast-medium or outside off stump for his three wickets. He caught the eye with two fine outfield catches, excellent ground fielding and throwing in to the wickets.

The other newcomers, the off spinner, Matthews, picked up the last two wickets to fall, but there was not a lot to be said in his favour.

PAUL THOMAS/FINE IMAGE

Mohamed Azeez 14-0-91-3 Lillee
Mohamed Nazeer 3-0-59-2 Lawrence
Graham Gooch 1-0-37-2 Matthews
Steve Attwells run out
Sally Maguire 3-0-57-2 Matthews
Michael Johnson 1-0-37-2 Matthews
Steve Waugh 1-0-37-2 Matthews
Wasim Bari 1-0-37-2 Matthews

Total (2 wickets) 470

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-24, 3-132, 4-135, 5-184, 6-281, 7-348, 8-357, 9-400, 10-470.

BOWLING: Lawrence 15-4-75-2; Lillee 15-1-72; Maguire 28-4-75-2; Cheppell 7-3-15-0.

PAUL THOMAS/FINE IMAGE

H.C. Wasim, c. Wasim Bari & Azeez
G. Lawrence, b. Steve Attwells
S. Attwells, b. Steve Attwells

Total (2 wickets) 11

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FALL

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.00 **CaeFox AM**: News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins. Also available to viewers with television sets without the teletext facility.

6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quiet hours, regional news, weather and sport at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; *Today's television* previewed at 6.55; a review of the morning papers at 7.18 and 8.18; Mike Smith's pop news between 7.30 and 8.00; *Esther Rantzen's That's Life* between 7.30 and 8.00 and again between 8.30 and 8.45; horoscopes at 8.35.

8.00 **The New Adventures of Flash Gordon**. *Gorilla* and the Dragon plus Royal Wedding. 9.25 *Why Don't You...?* Ideas for both parents. 9.30 *Wacky Wednesday*. 10.00 *Play Chaser*. Bill Hartston begins a new series, 10.10 *Jacksonery*. Andrew Surt with part of *The Dangerous Journey* to 10.25 Paddington goes to *Cousin* (r), 10.30 *Play School*, presented by Elizabeth Millbank and Iain Lauchan, 10.55 *Hockey Cockey*, 11.10 *Three Tall Tales*. Donald Duck cartoons.

12.00 **Look Back With Noakes**. John Noakes takes the Road to the Isles, 12.30 *News After Noon* with Frances Coverdale, 12.42 *Regional news* (London and SE only); *Financial report* followed by news headlines with subtitles), 12.45 *Cartoon*: Tom and Jerry, 1.00 *Bonanza*. Ben's double sets up a land swindle.

1.15 **Films**: *Dodge City* (1939) starring Errol Flynn as the man who tames the wild west town. Directed by Michael Curtiz. 3.30 *The World of Stanley Holloway*. His career charted by Alan Lerner.

4.20 **Hey, It's the King**, r. 4.30 *Jacksonery* with Colin Jeavons, Roy Kinnear and Simon Shepherd in part one of James Thurber's tale, *The 13 Clocks*. 4.45 *Gulliver's Travels*. An animated cartoon (r), 5.35 over the Engine, *Alfred Postgate's* steaming hero in *Cold Sheep* (r).

5.45 **News** with John Humphrys.

5.55 **The Best of Three of a Kind**. Highlights of the award-winning comedy series featuring Lenny Henry, Tracey Ullman and David Copperfield.

5.59 **Review '83** presented by Fred Emery and Sue Lawley. The most memorable and sometimes amusing events of the past year. (see choice).

6.05 **Phil Silvers** as Sergeant Phil, the RYCO NCO in the United States Army, this week with an alloy 'V'.

11.15 **Bill Wentz**. An international golf challenge played over nine holes of the Duke's Course at Woburn. Tonight: Germany's Bernhard Langer plays Sandra Haynes of the United States. The commentator is Peter Alliss.

12.05 **Weather**.

TV-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Nick Owen and John Stapleton. The morning papers reviewed at 6.25; news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; exercises at 8.45 and 8.55; *Jeri Barnet's* pick of the year as well as 8.55; with a celebrity as guest. Returns their home town at 7.45; pop video of the year at 7.55; magic moments at 8.05; Eve Pollard's gossip column at 8.35; and cookery from Michael Barry at 8.45. 9.00 *Roland's Winter Wonderland*.

Virginia McKenna in *The Case of the Frightened Lady*: BBC 2 8.15pm**ITV/LONDON**

8.25 **Thames news headlines** followed by *Seasame Street* in which The Muppets make learning a bit of fun 10.25 *Film*: *Gemini Man* (1978). A made for television movie starring Ben Murphy as Sam Casey, an agent for an organization called Intercept, who, after an underwater accident, discovers that he has the ability to become invisible at will. Directed by Alan Lew.

12.00 **Butter Moon**. Puppet adventures of the Spoon family (2.10) *Robot Laramie*. Learning puppets 12.30 *Look Who's Talking*. Derek Batey with Paul Shire.

1.00 **News** with Leonard Parkin 1.20 *Thames news*.

1.30 **30 Years On**. Peter Alliss looks back at his 30 years in tennis – a memorable year by any standards with the Queen's coronation, the conquest of Everest and the winning of the Ashes by England for the first time in 20 years (r) 2.30 *A Country Practice*.

3.30 **Film**: *The Thief of Bagdad* (1979) starring Roddy McDowell, Peter Ustinov and Terence Stamp. *The Arabian Night's* story about the good and kindly but penniless Prince Taj who enlists the help of a thief in a race with the wicked and wily Wazir for the hand of the Caliph's daughter, Princess Yasmina. Directed by Clive Donner.

5.15 **Benji at Marimeland**. The crafty canine tries to subdue and win the heart of Afghans.

5.45 **News 6.00** *Thames news*.

6.35 **Crossroads**. Glenda Banks begins to get labour pains at the Christmas party.

7.00 **Name That Tune**. Fast moving musical quiz compered by Tom O'Connor.

7.30 **Coronation Street**. Rita receives a visit from the mystery woman who tells her about her relationship with Rita's late husband.

8.00 **Jim Davidson's Special**. Variety show presented by the Cockney comedian.

9.00 **Chessgame**. The final part of the spy mystery and Dr Audrey and his team research the background of two Oxford students – one of whom has recently made a violent death. Their investigations lead to a surprising encounter by Adrián Wall. Starring Terence Stamp.

10.00 **News**.

10.15 **Film**: *Carrie* (1976) starring Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie and John Travolta. A really gory tale of a Plain Jane high-school girl – despised by her fellow pupils and sexually suppressed by her mother – who becomes the head of a coven. To bolster the football team she signs what are two ace players. Instead, he finds he has a probation breaker and a dog catcher. Directed by Norman Foster. 12.10 *Closeup*.

11.15 **News with John Humphrys**.

12.00 **Play**: *The Case of the Frightened Lady*, by Edgar Wallace, adapted for television by Victoria Pemberton. The mysterious murder of Lord Lebanon's young chauffeur brings Scotland Yard's Detective Chief Superintendent Tanner and his assistant Sergeant Tatty to investigate. Lord Lebanon, an eccentric young man, dominated by his mother, is due to marry Alia, a lady who sleepswalks and is in constant fear of death. Why should this be? With Virginia McKenna, Warren Clark and Tim Woodward. The director is Chris Menaul (see choice).

9.30 **Film**: *Fatal Attraction* (1987) starring Roddy McDowell, Peter Ustinov and Terence Stamp. *The Arabian Night's* story about the good and kindly but penniless Prince Taj who enlists the help of a thief in a race with the wicked and wily Wazir for the hand of the Caliph's daughter, Princess Yasmina. Directed by Clive Donner.

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Thatcher determined to hold course

Continued from page 1
tools over must be translated into votes in those contests if the party is to see off the Alliance and re-establish itself as the unrivalled alternative to the Thatcher Government.

Because he believes the elections will be regarded as a verdict by the electorate on the first year of the Government's second term, Mr Kinnock wants to inspire the interest of party activists and workers in the elections to Strasbourg - something about which they have never been too enthusiastic.

For a party trying to rebuild its popular support there are obvious drawbacks in treating the European elections as a mid-term test, and those are the expected low poll and the tendency among many voters to believe that their best interests in Europe are served by electing members of the Government party.

Mrs Thatcher's fairly buoyant outlook for the next decade was reflected in her new year interview with *Reader's Digest*, in which she looked forward to "an era of enterprise".

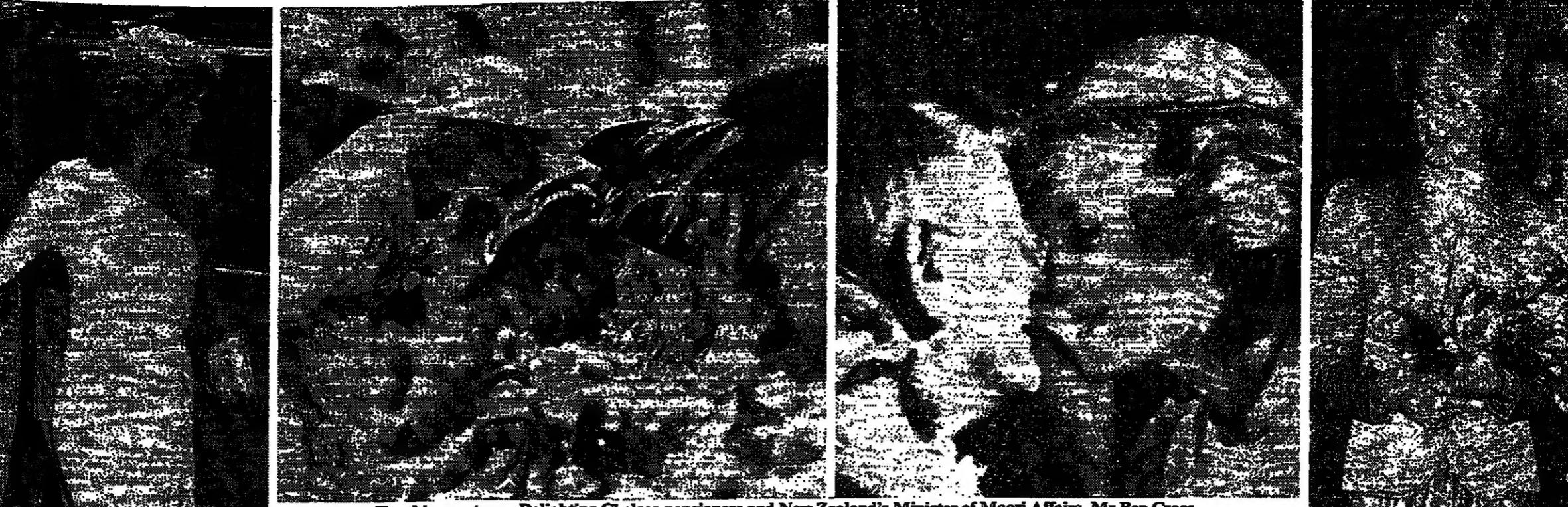
For years it had been said that Britain was drifting, that having lost an empire she had not yet found a role. Mrs Thatcher said:

"Well I want the 1980s to be the decade when we get back on course. We have the courage, the compassion and the inventiveness all the ingredients of great nations. What can hold us back? Only ourselves. We must never again allow state monopoly to replace competition or collectivism to strangle individual endeavour."

She hoped that Britain in the late 1980s would be a society in which substantially better provision could be made for the elderly, the sick and the disabled and in which the state existed for the individual and not the individual for the state, "a place where Britons will find greater scope for their creativity and far higher rewards for their efforts".

Mrs Thatcher said that the country might in some ways "be a chiller, bumpier, less cosy place but infinitely more invigorating".

The Prime Minister's warning of the possibility of a chiller and bumpier way ahead was described yesterday by Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow home secretary, as an admission that she had "swindled" the electorate last June, and that millions had been cheated into voting for her.



Touching gestures: Delighting Chelsea pensioners and New Zealand's Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr Ben Cross.



The Princess of Wales's many faces: The glittering royal personage; adoring mother; understanding hospital visitor and a target of fashion editors' criticism.

By Alan Hamilton

It was an unlikely year, that of the hitherto obscure Prime Minister of Newfoundland, into which the Princess of Wales unloaded her most intimate public thoughts of the year.

"I am finding it very difficult", she admitted, "to cope with the pressures of being Princess of Wales, but I am learning to cope. I have matured a lot recently and got used to coping with things." The hitherto obscure Prime Minister wasted only as much time as it takes to assemble the royal press corps before ensuring that the Princess's confidences were made known to the entire world. It is one of the things she finds difficult to cope with.

Her public would not quibble with her assessment of her progress. During 1983 the Princess has enhanced, and more importantly has survived, her unchallenged position

as the media market leader of the planet, her frailties of shyness and temperament merely magnifying the affection felt towards her.

What hastened her maturity was the experience of two overseas tours, to Canada and the Antipodes, on which she learned to live with staring crowds of a quarter of a million at a time. She had to endure an occasional skirmish with what she called the "wolf pack" of the press, but much worse, in both Canada and Australia, the massed bitching of fashion editors who derided her clothes as being far too severe and matronly.

No matter; she actually created new jobs in the British shoe industry during the year as the nation's tall women flocked to follow her example of low heels.

She and the Prince of Wales achieved other, more positive results on their two main foreign tours. Even

the Soviet Union and four other communist nations on the organizing committee agreed that the Royal couple were the ideal people to open the World University Games in Edmonton, Alberta. On the same tour, the French Canadian press displayed particular warmth towards them, although their programme delicately avoided any official engagements in Quebec.

In Australia,

the reception can

have been of no benefit whatsoever to Australia's slow drift towards becoming a Commonwealth republic.

The Princess elicited sympathy

from the unluckiest quarters. Early in the year, when reports of her private loneliness and unhappiness at the role into which she had been cast were rife in the British press, the *Herald Daily*, a provincial paper in the north-east of the People's Republic of China, paid tribute to the young

mother's simplicity and natural charm.

At home, 1983 was the year in which the Princess blossomed into a fully fledged professional royal personage, rather than being a mere decorative junior partner in what her mother-in-law privately refers to as "the firm".

During the year the Princess agreed to become patron of seven new organizations: The Wales Craft Council, Swansea Festival of Music and Arts, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, the British Deaf Association, the National Children's Orchestra, London City Ballet, and the youth and junior division of the British Red Cross Society.

She was already patron of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, Welsh National Opera, the Royal School for the Blind at Leatherhead, the Pre-School Playgroups Association, and The Albany, a London east end community association.

Her public engagements during the year largely reflected those specific interests. Her diary for 1983 shows that she carried out 76 public engagements, of which 45 were without her husband. Her diary was therefore considerably fuller than in the previous year, when much of her time was taken up with the birth of Prince William.

She has become one of the busiest

members of the Royal Family,

although her husband was slightly

ahead of her in 1983 with 52 public

engagements. Among many other

duties, the Princess opened six

hospitals, a shopping centre and a

bridge, was made a Freeman of the

Grocers' Company, opened a toy

factory in Peterlee, visited a housing

estate in Glasgow and a marmalade factory in Dundee, and delighted the Chelsea pensioners with her presence on Founder's Day.

But her forte, which occupied her most and saw her most at ease, was visiting the very young, the very old, and the sick, to whom she brought a touching directness.

Although observers continue to fret about her thinness, there is general agreement that the Princess is displaying much greater confidence and measureably greater ease in her role.

There is no more remarkable evidence of her universal appeal than her appearance during 1983, with her year-old son, on a commemorative stamp issued by the postal authorities of North Korea, a country not hitherto known for its embrace of indefinable ideals of constitutional monarchy.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Music

Concert by The Hilliard Ensemble, Randolph Hotel, Oxford. 8. Last chance to see

Work by Alison Britton, new ceramics, Brian Illsley, still life on paper, Michael Rothstein, new prints, Diana Hobson, pate de verre revived; Oxford Gallery, 23 High Street, Oxford. 10 to 5 (ends today).

Crafts for Christmas; Leicestershire Guild of Craftsmen, Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, 96 New Walk, Leicestershire. 10 to 5.30 (ends today).

New exhibition

Image - last of a series of three exhibitions sponsored by the Arts Council. Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield. Mon to Sat 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5 (until Jan 29).

Exhibitions in progress

Harvey's History of Wine Collection at the Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster. Mon to Thur 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Fri (until Jan 29).

David Donaldson retrospective, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh. Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until Jan 28).

Sainsbury's Images for Today: Winners of competition for British

artists. Cariwright Hall, Lisler Park, Bradford. Tues to Sun 10 to 3, closed Mon (until Jan 8).

Rail Images through the Lens, featuring more than 100 years of photography, Royal Photographic Society, The Octagon, Milson Street, Bath. Mon to Sat 10 to 4.45, closed Sun (until Jan 4).

The Macraurin Collection - the first exhibition of the Macraurin collection of Twentieth Century Art, The Macraurin Art Gallery, Rosele Park, Ayr. Mon to Sat 11 to 12, closed Sun (until Jan 28).

Home Sweet Home - an exhibition of Victorian Home Life, Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Road, Portsmouth. Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5.30 (until Jan 26).

Paintings by Peter Sutton. City Museum and Art Gallery, Priory Street, Peterborough. Tues to Sat 12 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (until Jan 7).

The Thirtieth Needlefemwoman: household needlework during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, EM Film Gallery, Walsall Museum and Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Walsall. Mon to Fri 10 to 16, Sat 10 to 4.45, closed Sun (until Jan 21).

The Scottish Crafts Collection, a touring exhibition from the Scottish Development Agency, Macraurin Art Gallery, Rosele Park, Ayr. Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until Jan 14).

Colouring Metals is a Crafts Council exhibition of work by two contemporary metalworkers, Michael Rowe and Richard Hughes. Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham. Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Jan 8).

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